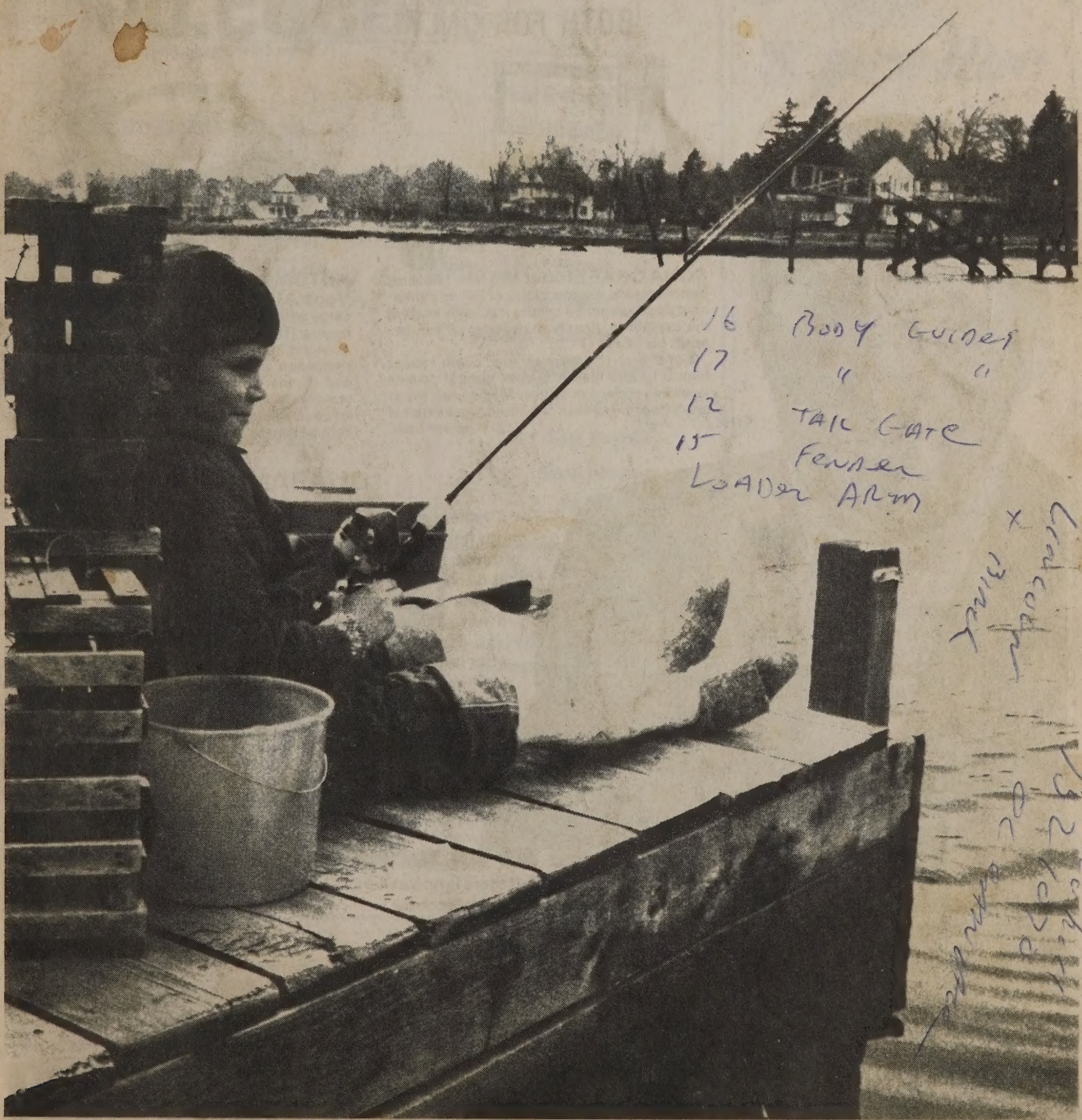
20¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

MAY 3rd, ISSUE NO. 16, 1973



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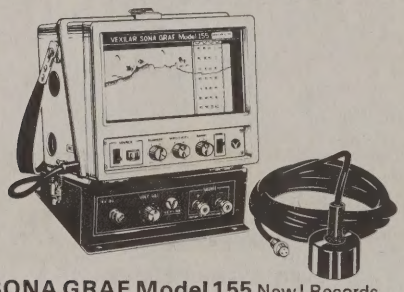

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOL. 8. NO. 16 MAY 3, 1973

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FRONT PAGE PHOTO

YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD FISHERMAN DOWN! A familiar sight on Five Mile River (a Long Island Sound inlet) in Rowayton, Connecticut is an avid young fisherman with both legs in hip casts. Peter Foss, a seven year old second grader, who broke both legs in a skiing mishap in Canada a few weeks ago, doesn't let this "slight" inconvenience keep him away from his favorite sport - fishing! He gets around on the docks on a mechanic's "creeper" since a wheelchair is too unwieldy.

Peter is catching flounders now in this area of the Sound and states that "they got out of the mud to start biting pretty early this year, and it looks like they are running bigger and fatter than last year."

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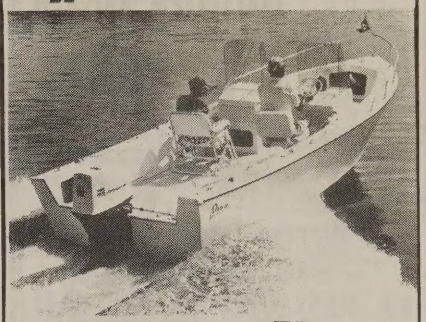

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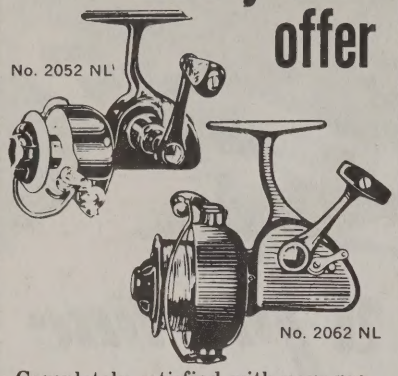

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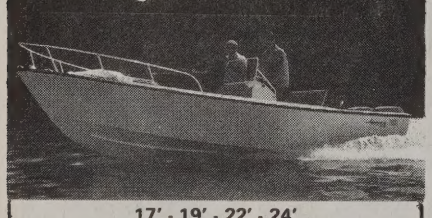

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STRIPED BASS FUND DRAWS FULL HOUSE AT FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

"The question is not where the striped bass spawn but whether they will survive as a viable species," Al Reinfelder, president of the Striped Bass Fund said in summary of the Fund's first Connecticut appearance.

More than 400 fishermen and environmentalists gathered at Fairfield University Tuesday evening, March 6th to hear presentations by Robert Boyle, author, fisherman, and senior writer for Sports Illustrated; Art Glowka, writer and fisherman; Angus Macbeth, lawyer for the Hudson River Fishermen's Association; Bob Pond, of Stripers Unlimited and Iggy Horvath, of the Fairfield Boatowner's Association. Mr. Reinfelder, moderator of the gathering, continued, "We know that only three major estuaries are, or were, the source of the coastal striper fishery . . . Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware River, and the Hudson River. We know that the striped bass is the most valued species in the coastal reach, for sport and commercial fishing. More sportsmen spend more dollars in pursuit of striped bass from the Carolinas to Maine. And as a commercial fish, striped bass brings more per pound. No matter what the interest may be, stripers are the prize fish in the esturine zone.

"Pollution and bad use of coastal waters threatens the entire species with continuing decimation. The Delaware is reported 'virtually dead' for striped bass spawning because of gross pollution. The Hudson is still productive but the danger to its fishery is well documented by A.E.C. witness, Dr. Charles Goodyear, by John Clark, one of the most knowledgeable marine biologists familiar with the river, and by fishermen who know the river on a day to day basis.

"Now we learn that portions of the Chesapeake spawning grounds are being assaulted by the same needless and thoughtless destruction," Mr. Reinfelder said.

Robert Boyle reported on his investigation of the Chesapeake this month. "This was a brief trip to the lower Chesapeake and what I saw did not cheer me. For example, take the James. I was shocked by the conditions of this river, an important spawning ground for the Chesapeake system. It hasn't produced a good hatch since 1966. In the spring of 1971 the white perch population just collapsed . . . and the white perch are a first cousin of the striped bass. I'm told that the Susquahanna, at the head of the bay, is no longer a striped bass spawning ground.

"Some of the rivers are highly productive," Mr. Boyle continued, "but threats are on the horizon. We need vigilance and well considered action."

Mr. Reinfelder, in conclusion, highlighted the Striped Bass Fund's rapid growth. The organization, formed in January of this year, has directors in ten states, evaluating and reporting problems threatening the striped bass fishery. The Fund's purpose is to sponsor research, education, and where necessary, litigation to protect the striper and its habitat waters.

Currently one major research paper has been funded and action is being planned on the Hudson, in the Chesapeake, and on the west coast.

COURTESY BOAT EXAMINATIONS

FREEPORT/BALDWIN, N.Y. - As part of its continuing program to assist and protect the boating public, Flotilla 13-7, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, today begins its 1973 schedule of courtesy boat examinations.

Certified Auxiliary examiners will be stationed on Saturday and Sunday mornings at Milburn Creek boat ramp (in Baldwin) and the Wantagh Park boat ramp (in Wantagh) through July 1st to inspect vessels and to advise boatmen of the safety equipment needed to meet Federal, State and Auxiliary requirements.

Boats meeting Auxiliary requirements, which exceed Federal and State regulations, will receive an Auxiliary decal indicating to the Coast Guard and other law enforcement bodies that the vessel was properly equipped and met maximum safety standards at the time of inspection.

This year, for the first time, 13-7 inspectors will also perform a Federal Equipment Check (FEC) on Class A boats (under 16 ft. in length) and issue FEC decals if all requirements are met.

The FEC program was developed by the Coast Guard since a major portion of past boating facilities and accidents have involved Class A boats.

Auxiliary examinations are performed free at the request of the boat owner and results of the examination are given to the owner. Failing boats are NOT reported since the Coast Guard Auxiliary does not have law enforcement powers.

Boat inspections will also be made by appointment. For further details, call Arthur Goldstein, (516) TN 8-1524, or Michael Campbell, (516) 868-5461, weekday evenings.

MEMBERSHIP INVITED

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian arm of the Coast Guard, dedicated to the promotion of safety in boating. It was created by an Act of Congress in 1939, specifically to assist the Coast Guard in saving lives on the water, and accomplishes its mission through education, boat examinations, and safety patrols.

Division XIX of the Coast Guard Auxiliary which encompasses the North shore from Cold Spring Harbor to Port Jefferson, has Flotillas based in eight locations and invites membership to anyone interested in safe boating. JOIN TODAY! Call the number in your area for further information.

Cold Spring Harbor, 271-8311; Huntington, 757-8424; Northport, 368-2389; Asharoken, 724-4408; Lake Grove, 585-8603; Kings Park, 368-3295; Stony Brook, 724-0236; Mt. Sinai, HR 3-0424; Port Jefferson, 588-2282.

CLUB NEWS

The Capri Anglers Fishing Club of Hicksville, Long Island, has openings for NEW members, both male and female over eighteen (18) years of age.

All fishing trips are held on Sundays. NO BIG GAME FISHING. They have charters lined up for the summer months. The Capri Anglers meet the last Tuesday of the month at the Plaza Restaurant and Grill, 206 Old Country Road, Hicksville, at the corner of Newbridge Road. Time - 8:00 P.M.

For further information, call the following number: Mrs. E. Hahn, Membership Committee, IV 1-3462.

The Great South Bay Anglers held their annual awards dinner on Saturday night, April 7th, at Flynn's Restaurant of Bay Shore.

They awarded over $400.00 worth of tackle and trophies. Some of the top awards were as follows:

Largest striped bass in surf, Steve Jendricks, 34½ lbs.; largest bluefish in surf, Marty Beer, 13½ lbs.; largest weakfish, George Agardi, 7½ lbs.; largest bass in boat, Fred Golofaro, 28 lbs.; largest bluefish in boat, Charlie Peppard, 17 lbs. 9 ozs.

The club has a few openings for new members, and if anyone is interested in joining a red-hot surf fishing and boat fishing club, they can contact Marty Beer, Box 82, West Sayville, N.Y. 11796 for information.

The Atlantic Anglers of Massapequa recently held their 1972 year-end awards dinner at the Ole Straw Hat, 71 Merrick Road, Amityville, N.Y. Thirty-four trophies, covering 15 different species of fish, were awarded to the membership. Plaques were also given to past officers for a job well done.

Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month. These meetings are open and everyone is welcome. For further information, contact Jim Walters, 458 Broadway, Bethpage, N.Y. 11714.

BASS & BLUEFISH TOURNEY

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Anglers from throughout the New England area are expected to participate in the 3rd Annual Roger Williams Striped Bass & Bluefish Tournament from July 6th to 3 p.m. on July 8th, according to the Tourist Promotion Division of the Rhode Island Development Council. The second annual tournament saw more than 300 entrants from New England, New York and New Jersey. Ray Jobin of Woonsocket took top honors with a 44 lb. 4 oz. striped bass, boat caught, and Lou LaFauci of Providence took top honors with a 10 lb. 8 oz. bluefish, boat caught.

The Town Dock in Wickford, North Kingstown will be headquarters and weigh-in station for the contest. Striped bass and bluefish taken in Rhode Island waters, with surf and boat categories, and those caught by entrants in the women's division, will be eligible for tournament prizes.

Trophies will be awarded to the sports fisherman for the biggest bass taken from surf or boat, biggest bluefish from surf or boat, largest bass taken by a woman, with additional categories for individuals and aggregate total weights for clubs.

Registration will be $5.00 for either the surf or boat category and $6.00 for a combination of the two. All proceeds will be donated to the Ladd School, Exeter. The school is a state-owned and operated facility administering to the needs of retarded persons. Further information on the tournament is available by writing to: Mr. Albert J. Varatta, Jr., Tournament Chairman, 121 Arcadia Ave., Cranston, R.I.

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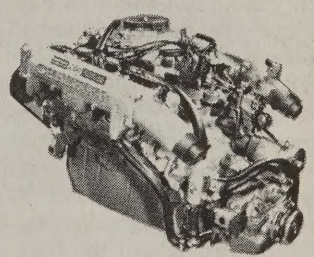

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STRIPERS AND WORMS

Drifting with worms is especially effective around bridges, in channels, inlets and tidal rivers and bays.

by Vlad Evanoff

If you had to choose a natural bait to use for stripers from April to November, which one would you pick? Well, if I had to make such a choice I wouldn't hesitate to pick seaworms - - - bloodworms or sandworms. Worms are one of the most versatile and consistently productive baits for stripers that you can use, and they are effective throughout the season. They work not only in the bays and tidal rivers and marshes, where they are found on mud flats, but also in rivers and marshes, where they are found on mud flats, but also in inlets, channels, along the surf, and in other waters where stripers feed. Worms will not only take schoolies, but also big cow bass up to 50 pounds or more.

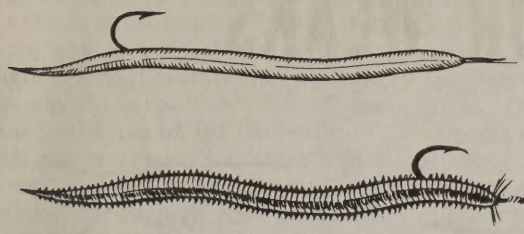
Seaworms, of course, are a must for early stripers in the spring when the water is cold and the bass aren't too active. At such times, bloodworms or sandworms are taken on the bottom by the sluggish bass when they won't even look at artificials. The early fishing starts in bays, tidal rivers, marshes and similar inland waters.

For this early fishing, a good bottom rig to use is similar to the ones discussed and illustrated in the **"Making Bottom Rigs"** article I wrote for the March 22nd issue of **Long Island Fisherman.** These are the "sliding sinker" rigs which work on the "fish-finder" idea. When using bloodworms for bait with these rigs, get a 1/0 or 210 long-shanked hook and thread a whole sandworm completely up on the entire shank of the hook, past the eye and right up onto the leader. Leave just about an inch of the worm's tail to extend beyond the bend of the hook. In this way the worm lies straight and isn't too easily stolen by white perch, eels, bergalls, and other pests.

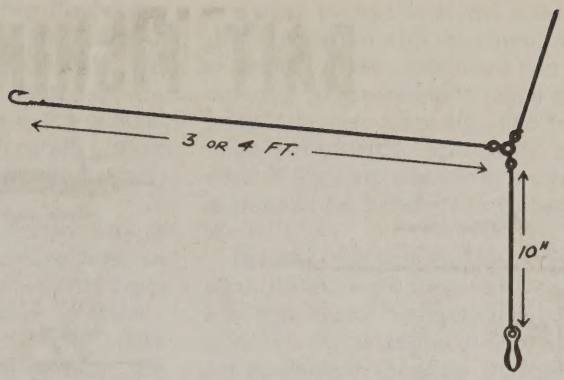
Surf anglers can start looking for stripers along the south shore beaches of Long Island in late April and early May. Boat anglers in New Jersey often have good fishing along Sandy Hook, casting a worm rig toward the breakers, in late April. Surf anglers on Long Island can start fishing the Rockaways, Atlantic Beach, Long Beach, Point Lookout, Short Beach, Jones Beach, Cedar Beach and many other beaches along the ocean, east to Montauk Point.

For surf fishing you can use the regular, standard surf bottom rig or the "fish-finder" rig. For worm fishing, use a somewhat longer leader up to 2 or 3 feet. Small hooks are best in sizes 2/0 or 3/0, with the Eagle Claw a favored pattern. If you are using sandworms, take one big worm and run the hook into its mouth and then out just below the head. Bloodworms are usually smaller, and here you can use two or three of them; hook each one just once through the middle so that the ends wriggle. I've also used combination baits of one sandworm and one bloodworms on the same hook.

If you are bothered by crabs and



Two ways to hook worms: Top - Bloodworm threaded on long shank hook. Bottom - Sandworm hooked in head.



Rig used with worm when drifting in a boat.

other pests in the surf, you can use a longer 4-foot leader and add a narrow 2-inch cork about 10 inches above the hook. Many anglers use corks like the bright red flourescent, orange or yellow ones, which they feel attract more stripers.

Striped bass can also be caught from piers and bridges in the spring, summer and fall months on worms. At Coney Island's Steeplechase Pier, in the spring, fish for them with a big, red and white float which can be seen at night. This float is about 4 or 5 feet above the 2/0 hook (baited with a whole sandworm), with a clincher sinker clamped around the leader about 2 feet above the hook. You fish on the side of the pier where the tide is flowing away from you and let the float out into the current. The same thing can be done from a bridge.

Bridge anglers also use a technique known as "bridge-trolling" or as "bridge-walking." Here, you use a worm on a bottom rig with about a 2 to 4 ounce sinker, and a 3-foot leader and hook tied about 3 or 4 feet above the weight. Lower this rig to the bottom and when you feel the sinker bounce, reel in the slack line and start walking slowly along the rail of the bridge. You should raise your rod every so often to make sure you are on the bottom, and even let out slack line if the tide increases in strength.

Trolling with spinners and worms is an old-time method of taking striped bass which is still effective on many occasions. The well-known "Cape Cod" or "Willow-leaf" type blades, and other spinners such as the "June Bug" and "Lane" spinners, are all good for such trolling. Usually anywhere from one to three worms are added on the double hook rigged behind the spinner. Other lures used with worms include the "turkeybone," or plastic tube lure, which has

Continued on Page 18

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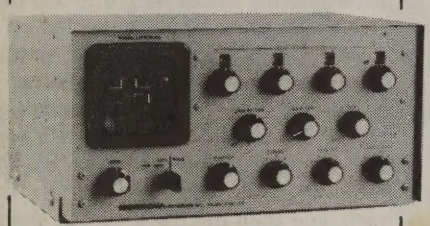

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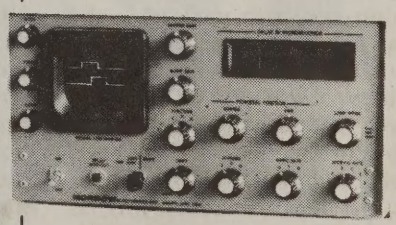

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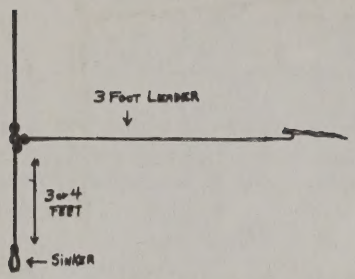
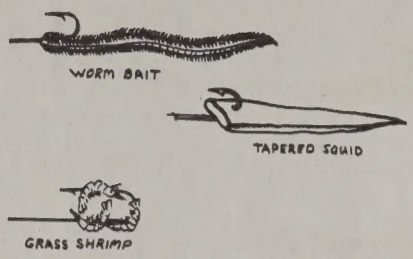
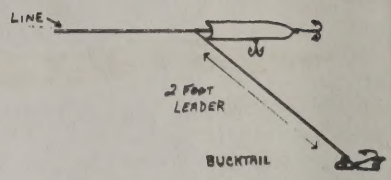


Basic weakfish rig.



Bait rigs



Dropper - Popper.

by Ron Onorato

After taking an extended leave of absence for the past 20 years, the resurgence of weakfish in Long Island waters has added a new dimension to the fishing scene. The first indications of a comeback were detected in 1970, when hordes of fingerling weaks teemed into the bays and creeks of Long Island. In 1971 and 1972 enormous quantities of fish were taken, tiderunners of over 5 pounds, as well as school sized fish of 2 or 3 pounds. Long Island's third gamefish has demonstrated that he is now something to contend with.

The weakfish that inhabits our bays and sounds during the summer months is a migrating species that is very sensitive to cold temperatures. Arriving from southern waters as the temperature up north moderates, the first few fish are taken along the beaches as early as the end of April. Come May, there is a full-scale invasion of the yellow-finned warriors. The fish settle in the marshes, bays, and creeks of Long Island through the summer, and depart sometime around the end of October, or even as late as the end of November.

The average weakfish will run about 2 or 3 pounds, with many fish over 5 pounds weighed in each summer. The larger specimens are often referred to as "tiderunners." The weakfish (or squetaegue, as he is known up in New England) has a fairly soft mouth, from which his name was derived. These two characteristics determine the tackle and techniques used for weakfishing.

Weakfish are predatory in their feeding habits; they actively chase baitfish such as sand eels, silversides, minnows, baby bunkers and shrimp. At times, weaks will root along the bottom in search of worms or soft shell crabs. Wherever there is a good supply of bait, weakfish can be assumed to be in the area: Marsh banks, channels, creeks, inlets, and tide rips that one often associates with striped bass fishing may also harbor the weakfish.

The weakfishing army is split up into two camps: the natural bait fisherman and the artificial lure caster. The time-honored method of a high-hook baited with a strip of squid is gradually being replaced by the caster of bogus baits. Since both methods are very exacting, the first part of this article will deal with the tackle and techniques used for bait fishing for weakfish.

Spinning tackle, as well as conventional tackle, can be used when baitfishing for this species. An all around conventional outfit would include a light boat rod of 5½ to 6 feet in length, and a matching reel with 20 pound test monofilament. A spinning outfit should consist of a 6½ to 7 foot light-medium action rod with a matching reel holding 8 or 10 pound test mono. Either of these outfits will serve as basic bait fishing tackle. The angler's preference will dictate which one is to be used.

There is a wide variety of baits that the angler can choose from. Two of the more readily available and commonly used baits are bloodworms or sandworms and squid. Live minnows, or killies, as they are sometimes known, are sometimes very effective. One of the best, but most rarely used, is the blue crab in the shedder (soft shell) stage. Small, thin strips cut from the side of a mossbunker are also effective baits. The grass shrimp, which was the most popular as well as the most effective of all baits, is basically a thing of the past, since the price and availability are beyond that of the average angler.

Very few people have the time or the patience to obtain their bait from natural sources, so the first stop on any weakfishing trip is to the bait dealer. Here the fisherman will decide what bait to purchase and what type of fishing he plans to do.

If the fisherman is familiar with the area, or if there are a large number of boats around, still fishing while anchored is the preferred way. The basic bottom fishing rig consists of a sinker, heavy enough to hold bottom, that is attached to the terminal end of the line by means of a loop. The hook is attched approximately three or four feet above the sinker. A 1/0 to 3/0 fine wire Eagle Claw hook connected on a three foot leader of 20 or 30 pound leader material is the best choice.

The bait is then put on the hook. If worms are being used, select a 5 or 6 inch specimen and put him on the hook by inserting his head on the barb, and then forcing it up the shank of the hook so that his tail hangs off the hook.

If squid is the prescribed bait, care must be taken when preparing it so that it is done correctly. Both the mantle or the tentacles can be used. Cut a long strip from the fleshy mantle about four inches long and about ¾ inch wide, then trim it to a taper. The strip is then inserted on the hook, as shown in the diagram. In this manner the bait will flutter enticingly in the current. The tentacles are hooked once through the top, if using them is your preference.

A live killie is hooked through the lips and allowed to swim freely. If a shedder crab is to be used, keeping it

on the hook is a little difficult. Select a large crab and cut it in quarters, or if it is small, cut it in half. Put the crab on the hook and with the aid of a short length of thread, tie it to the shank. In this way the piece won't fall off the hook, or be pulled off too easily.

If, by some chance, the angler comes across grass shrimp, his chances of success are increased. Depending upon the size of the hook used, two to four shrimp are selected. One by one they are forced up the shank of the hook with the last one close to the barb. Fresh, whole shrimp from the fish market can be used with some degree of success; the smaller ones are best. One shrimp is used at a time with the barb of the hook forced through the shoulder of the shrimp.

The angler is now ready to fish, and the baited rig is lowered to the bottom. If a bait is too heavy and sinks, a small cork can be added so that it floats off the bottom. A tight line is held, with occasional jigging action imparted to the line as the angler waits for the attack of a squet.

If the current is light and there are few boats around, the angler may elect to drift for fish. The same rig used for still fishing can be used for drifting. The sinker bounces along the bottom as the fisherman anticipates the bite of a weak. Once a fish is caught, the angler should make note of the location and return to it for another drift. Drifting is generally more effective than anchoring since it covers a larger area.

Perhaps the most effective way to catch weaks is by chumming from an anchored boat. There are many types of baits that can be used as chum.

Grass shrimp is one of the better chums around. A few shrimp are scattered over the side at intervals of every few minutes. Another effective chum is ground mossbunker. Since it is usually sold in five gallon cans, the angler must be careful not to over-chum. Usually, one gallon is enough for a trip. Small pieces of cut fish, spearing, cut squid or dead killies can be added to the bunker chum, and the entire salad mixed together with a few cups of seawater.

When chumming, the angler will do best to connect the hook directly to the line, with the smallest of sinkers clinched a couple of feet above the hook. A fine-wire 1/0 hook is the largest an angler should use when chumming. Any bait can be used, but it is often preferable to use some bait that is mixed in with the chum. A cup of chum is thrown overboard every few minutes, with care being taken not to ladle it over too heavily. The baited hook is then left to drift in the chum slick. If there are any weaks around, it is short order before they respond to the bait.

Despite their soft mouths, very few weakfish will work their way free from a baited hook. However, it is always advisable for an angler to have a large net available in the event a tiderunner is hooked. Why take unnecessary chances?

Most weakfishing is done from small rowboats or skiffs. Party boats, however, sail from Captree, Greenport, and Peconic Bay in search of weakfish. There is no reason why any angler who wants to fish for weakfish cannot do so, since there are many boat liveries that specialize in accommodating the weakfisherman.

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KNOTS TO YOU!

by PETE BARRETT

A short while ago, Mark Sosin gave an excellent presentation and talk on knots to the East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited. As I listened, I couldn't help but remember some nice fish I had lost in the past and which, up until that night, I had blamed upon a faulty line, jerky drag, rough line guide or some other flimsy excuse. The knot I did use was a good one, but not always suited to the job intended.

Never noted for having an elephant's capacity for remembering everything at a lecture, yet with an increased desire to learn more about this business of tying knots, I purchased a copy of Mark's latest book which he co-authored with Lefty Kreh. Armed with my new copy of **PRACTICAL FISHING KNOTS** I began to delve deeper into the subject, and came up with a few surprises, not only about tying knots but also about the monofilament lines I had been using.

Mark and Lefty's book is the first comprehensive guide to fishing and boating knots for all salt and fresh water applications. It should be required reading for every serious fishermen - whether surf caster, fly rodder, bottom sinker bouncer or wire line troller. Knots are one of the most important aspects of fishing success, and yet the majority of us overlook them.

Today's angler lives in the monofilament age. It gets its name from the manufacturing process in which it is extruded from a huge machine in a long, single strand of nylon, similar in principle to a youngster squirting toothpaste into the bathroom sink. Monofilament is easy to cast, holds knots well, has desirable qualities for fighting fish, and is relatively inexpensive. Seems to be the answer to any fisherman's prayers for the ideal line, doesn't it?

Yet many fishermen are surprised to learn that mono does not last forever, and can deteriorate. It is effected by heat and ultra-violet light from the sun and flourescent lights. Normal casting and retrieving wear the line, and fighting a fish can cause it to fray on fish scales or rocks. It will deteriorate even as it sits on a reel spool, as it loses some of the additives which make mono supple and strong.

So - when do you change line? Obviously, if the mono on any one of your reels is brittle and stiff it should be discarded, but why wait for these poor qualities to appear? As a general rule of thumb, change the line before the start of each season, or perhaps more often if you fish hard and frequently. I had a good experience with what poor line can do with Capt. Ev Smith on the "Sea Boots" on a trip to Orient Point for some deep-jigged bluefish. A friend of mine still had the line from the previous season on his Ambassaduer 9000. The line was stiff, brittle and of course, weakened. After a few lost blues and diamond jigs, Jim disgustedly returned the reel to his tackle box and took out a second reel filled with fresh line. The difference in fishability was obvious as he yanked blue after blue over the side.

The end of the line takes the brunt of the wear as you continually cast and retrieve, and this part of the line should be cut back every few fish, or at the end of the day. Another friend of mine, Don Ecker, delights in nailing bull stripers on light tackle up in Cape Cod Bay. Don has a few 50 pounders under his belt, yet has never lost a bass due to bad line or a poor knot. He cuts back his line after each fish!

Every mono line has a breaking point which is stated as the pound test of the line. However, this is not always the pound test marked on the package when the spool was purchased. Fishermen sometimes believe that one line is stronger than another and they are **probably right!** Due to regulations in labeling laws, a line labeled at 20 pound test must break at 20 pounds **or more**, but never below 20. It is conceivable that a given brand could test out at 25 or even 30 pounds test. The only lines, mono or braided, guaranteed to break below the stated pound-test rating are those advertised and labeled as IGFA. This is done in order to protect the angler who may catch a record fish.

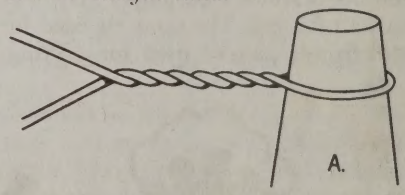
Knots, too, have a breaking point which is stated as a percentage of the strength of the unknotted line itself. Most of the good knots are rated at close to the 100% mark, with a select few actually reaching 100%.

Mark and Lefty go into great detail on how to tie over 40 knots, from the simplest to the very complex. Each has been tested extensively under controlled laboratory conditions and in actual fishing by professional fishermen. Three of the best, which apply to Long Island fishermen, are shown here.

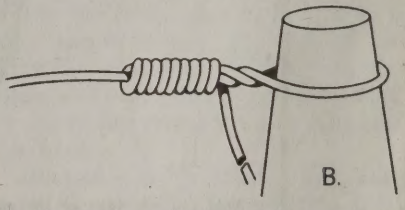
The **Bimini Twist**, also known as the **"20 Times Around Knot,"** is rated at 100% of the breaking strength of the line, and is the basis for making strong leaders, shock lines and for attaching terminal tackle. Although it looks complicated, after a few tries it gets easier, and soon becomes simple. The uses for it are nearly unlimited, and it is used whenever a knot or length of line of 100% strength is needed.

THE BIMINI TWIST

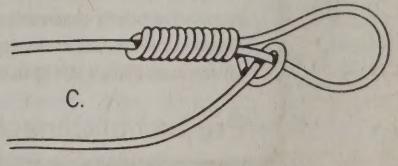
Makes a permanent loop in monofilament, linen, nylon, or dacron lines, and is especially good for heavy big game fishing. It gets its name from the islands of Bimini and Cat Cay in the Bahamas where it was developed for use on bluefin tuna.



A. Allow yourself about 2-feet of working line. Form a loop around some tapered object such as a rod butt, gimbal, or chair leg. Take four turns back with the free line over the standing line. Keep tension on both lines, keep turns neat and tight.

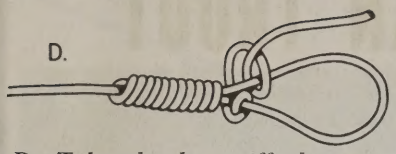


B. Hold the coils tight with your hand and wrap the free line over the first twists. Keep the coils close together and use as many as you need to come up to the V of the loop.

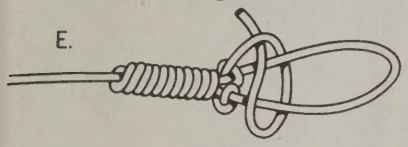


C. Again holding the twists tight with your thumb and forefinger, take a half hitch around one side of the loop and

pull it tight.

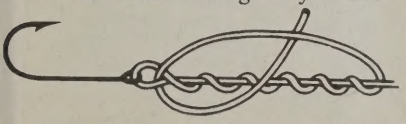


D. Take the loop off the tapered support, turn the loop over, and slide it back on to hold it in position. Take a half hitch around the other side of the loop and pull it tight.



E. Loosen the loop by pushing it up on tapered support. Take a half hitch around the base of the loop. Clip off the free line leaving at least 1/8" and the Bimini twist is completed.

The **Clinch Knot** is more than likely being used by many anglers already, but its importance cannot be overemphasized. Its strength is rated at 95% of the line test. Tying it at the end of a bimini twist gives you 100%.

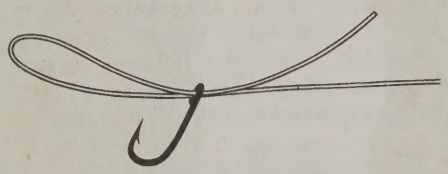


IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT

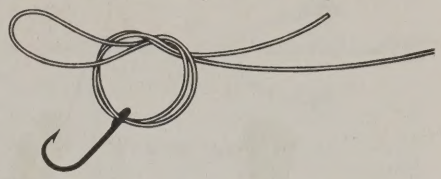
Used to tie a leader or line to a fly, hook, lure, or swivel. Run about 3" or 4" of the end of the leader through the eye of the hook, lure, or swivel, double it back and wind it around the leader for at least five turns. Put the end through the opening next to the hook eye. Run the end through the big loop as shown. Pull on the end and slide the turns toward the hook or lure eye to tighten the knot.

The **Palomar Knot** is realtively new to the Long Island region. It is considerably easier to tie for some people than the improved clinch knot, and it is used for tying on an individual hook, leader, swivel or lure. Tied properly, it gives 100% strength.

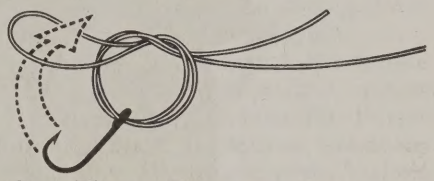
THE PALOMAR KNOT



Step One: For a large eye hook the line is first doubled and then passed through the eye. When using a hook with a small eye it will be necessary to pass the line through the eye singly and then go back through the eye from the same side to form a loop.



Step Two: After the loop is formed by the line doubling through the eye, hold the hook by the shank and eye, take the loop in your free hand and tie an overhand knot around the running line leaving a loop large enough for the hook to come back through.



Step Three: With your thumb and forefinger of your free hand reach through the loop and pull the hook through. Hold the running line where it passes through the eye and draw up snugly so that the line is secure at the top of the eye.

Continued on Page 18

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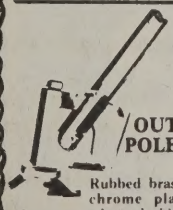

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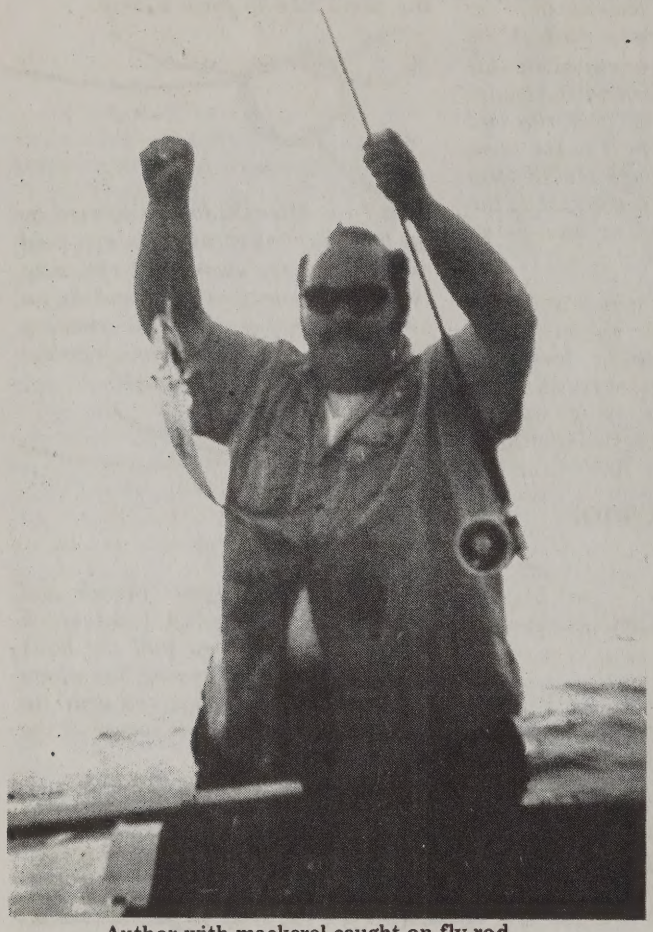
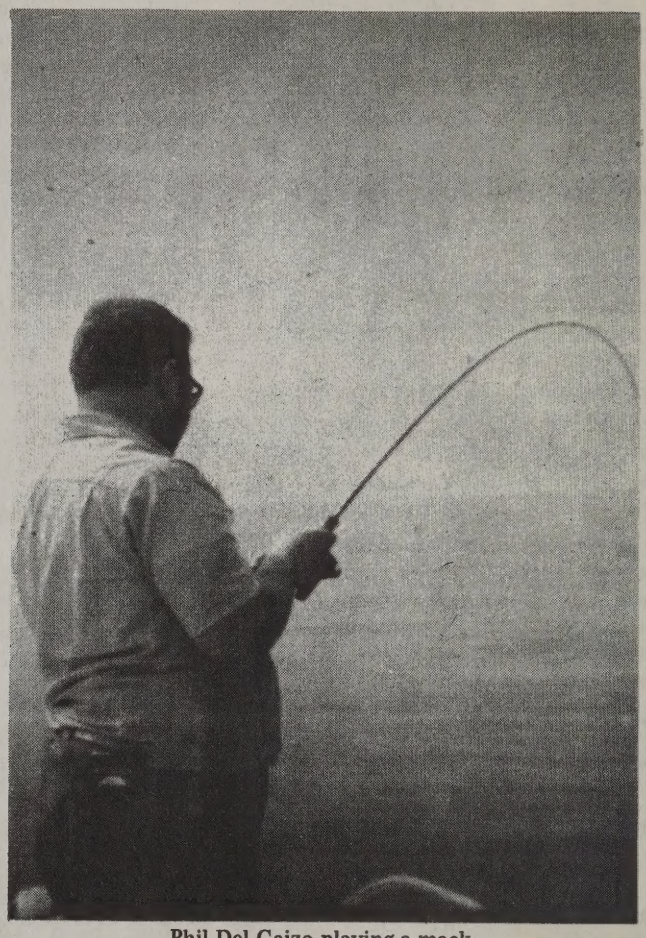


Author with mackerel caught on fly rod.



Phil Del Gaizo playing a mack.

by Zachary S. Grossman

Have you noticed that waders won't keep you warm in freezing-cold streams, or that icy guides make line handling difficult, or that polaroid glasses will remove the reflections of the other anglers in your "secret pool" but cannot remove the anglers, themselves? Does the fact that "Old Sabertooth" turned out to be 13 inches long make it all seem useless?

I know a "spot" where all the fish are one to three pounds, are feeding on top, and are willing to fight each other for the privilege of getting to your fly or lure. The "spot" is Long Island Sound, and the fish are Boston Mackerel. If you are willing to take care of your tackle, you will find that there is a source of pleasure in the Sound that is ideally suited to your trout equipment. But - you must wash and lubricate your tackle after each trip!

In May, the Boston Mackerel come into the Sound to spawn. They can be found in every bay and harbor at this time of the year, and they also abound in the open stretches of this body of water. The schools of mackerel are immense and easy to spot because of their size and the fact that they travel just under the surface. This means that gulls and terns are constantly hovering around the schools, and therefore make it easy to spot them from a long way off. Although the schools are most active at dawn and dusk, they will continue to surface throughout the day. Mackerel are very aggressive and will chase almost anything that moves. If you chose spinning tackle you will find that the lighter you go the more fun you will have with these fish. Since they are caught in open, obstruction-free waters you need not worry about leading them away from snags or rocks and can therefore go as light as you want. My recommendations follow:

ROD: Choose a really lightweight rod designed for lines testing from 2-4 pounds, that can cast a lure weighing approximately 1/8 ounce.

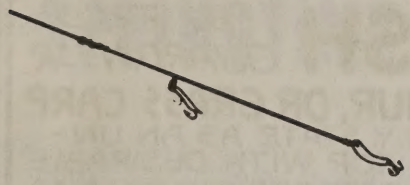
REEL: Use a very light weight reel with a good drag system, as these fish can really accelerate.

LINE: Use a premium quality line of 2 or 4 pound test.

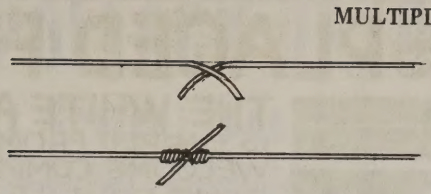
LURE: Any small, shiny spoon or jig, alone or in tandem with a tinker tube.

LEADERS: You can use a leader of monofilament approximately 18 inches long to which the terminal tackle is attached. This leader allows you to reach down and swing the fish into the boat without fear of breaking the light line, and removes the necessity of netting the fish. I use 12 pound test for this.

When approaching a school of mackerel, try to come from upwind, and cut your engine when you are just outside casting range. As you drift toward the fish, cast your lure to the edge of the school, allow it to sink for a few seconds, then jig it back toward

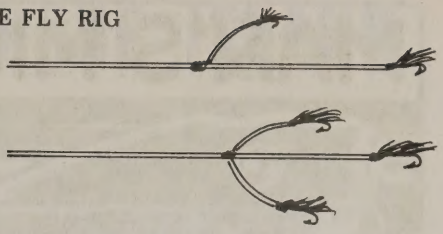


TANDEM SPIN RIG



Blood knot with large overlap.

MULTIPLE FLY RIG



Two or three fly rig.

the boat. The speed of retrieve should be varied until you find out what they like at the moment. If the school is right on the surface you'll have to reel much faster.

The drag should be kept light for maximum enjoyment and protection against lost tackle or fish: Mackerel put up a good fight composed of speedy runs, deep dives, and charges toward the boat. In general, their fight reminds you that they are miniature members of the Tuna family. The schools of macks keep coming up every few minutes, making it unnecessary to go racing all over the Sound to have fun.

Sometimes the fish like to stay down a little deeper. When this happens, you have to use the count-down method of fishing for them. After each cast, let the lure sink a little deeper as you count. When you have found the depth at which the macks are feeding, you can send the lure down to the strike zone on every cast by counting to the same number. If you just drift around in the area where the fish were active last, you will find them soon enough.

For an added challenge you can try your fresh water fly tackle on these fish. My tackle recommendations are:

ROD: Any trout rod you care to use.

REEL: Any reel that balances the rod and will hold some backing behind the fly line. (These fish can run and there have been some caught over 3 pounds.)

LINE: A sinking line will take your flies down if the fish are staying deep. A floating line will work when the fish are on the surface. If it's a weight-forward line it will give you extra distamce, thus allowing you to stay further away from the school.

TIPPET: Use a tapered leader with a tippet of 1 to 4 pound test.

FLIES: These fish like plenty of flash. I use a sparsely-tied bucktail with a body of mylar piping. I like orange hait and gold mylar.

If the fish are not on the surface, you can use the count down method with a sinking fly line. The retrieve should be jerky and need not be too fast when the fish are down. You can use a dropper fly rig as illustrated. A blood knot is tied in the leader, but only one end is clipped off close to the knot. To the other strand tie another fly. Or, you can tie the leader with two extending strands at the blood knot

Continued on Page 18

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MAN'S MISPLACED FISH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE WHITE AMUR, OR GRASS CARP IS BARRED FROM N.Y. STATE AS AN UNWELCOME COMPETITOR WITH DESIRABLE GAME FISH. IT IS OFFERED FOR SALE AS A POTENTIAL ANSWER TO OVER-ABUNDANT WEED GROWTH IN LAKES, WHILE IN REALITY ITS HABITS SET THE STAGE FOR GREATOR VEGETATION PRODUCTION.

THE GERMAN OR COMMON CARP, INTRODUCED A CENTURY AGO, STILL SURVIVES, AND IN BABYLON, L.I., THE NATIVES GIVE PRIZES FOR ITS CAPTURE!

THE WALKING CATFISH, BELOW, IS A MORE RECENT EXAMPLE OF IMPRUDENT INTRODUCTION. THIS MONSTER HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN THE DEEP SOUTH WITH DETRIMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.

GRR!

THE YELLOW PERCH WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE COLD TROUT WATERS OF THE ADIRONDACKS WHERE IT BECAME STUNTED AND OFFERED NO WORTHWHILE ANGLING.

THE MURDEROUS SEA LAMPREY EEL GOT INTO THE GREAT LAKES VIA THE CANADIAN WELLAND CANAL AND ATTACKED WHITEFISH AND LAKE TROUT. BY 1950 THE COMMERCIAL FISH CATCH DROPPED FROM 18 MILLION LBS. TO ZERO!

SPRINGTIME POLLACK IN RHODE ISLAND

by George "Doc" Hayek

Pollack are ordinarily located in deep water. As a matter of fact, pollack are a member of the cod family and, like cod, prefer the colder, deeper waters. Twice a year, however, once in the spring and again in the fall, they move closer to the shoreline and feed nearer to the surface. Like cod, they will feed on the bottom, eating clams and clamworms, but when they locate moving bait, especially shrimp or sand eels, they go on a feeding frenzy. It is at this time that they will strike at an artificial lure.

My first salt water fish was a pollack of about five pounds. It was caught on a surface lure but as I soon found out, pollack rarely strike a surface action plug. The most productive artificials are small, fish-shaped swimmers, shiny spoons, and very small bucktail jigs.

I usually employ one of two techniques for catching these fish. The first method consists of placing a spoon or fish-shaped swimmer directly on the fishing line, or using a small bucktail jig behind a wood float on a thirty inch leader of monofilament. This method places the lure from just below the water's surface to about a foot below. If, after using this method for a few dozen casts, switching from one of the above mentioned lures to the other, there is no success, I will change to the second method. It is by far the most productive pollack grabber in my bag.

The second method is similar to the above with one exception: a lead-weighted copper tube is used in place of the wood float to bring the lure down into deeper water. By allowing this rig to sink into the water before starting your retrieve, varying depths for lure presentation can be achieved by simply varying the amount of time you would wait before cranking the handle of your fishing reel.

Some of the rigs I use have either two bucktail jigs or a bucktail dropper with a spoon or swimmer. Often this results in so many double-headers that I am almost forced to go back to a single lure, because the light tackle I use makes it very difficult to land two fish that are pulling in opposite directions. I usually use a one-handed, six-foot spinning rod with six to eight pound test monofilament, or a seven-foot rod loaded with ten to twelve pound line, depending on the size of the fish or the location we are fishing.

Pollack are most often found in the waters of the ocean, or of a sound. Very infrequently will they go into the waters of a bay or tidal river. In Rhode Island, pollack can be found anywhere along the south shoreline from Watch Hill to Point Judith, and from Point Judith northward to the Narrow River Inlet. Some of the more productive areas are the breachways that exist in Charlestown, Quonochonotaug, Galilee and Weakapaug. Some of the walls and jetties can also be very productive. Frequently, a sandy beach will witness large numbers of pollack slashing back and forth, chasing bait in a manner not dissimilar from that of stripers chasing bait. And last but not least, the rocky shores of Narragansett are often visited by these fish.

Unlike striped bass and bluefish, which migrate from south to north and back again, pollack migrate from deeper water to shallow water and back again. Therefore, pollack do not necessarily make their first showing in any given area: Their first appearance might be in any of the spots I have mentioned above.

Pound for pound, I honestly believe that a pollack is a stronger fighter than a striped bass. I will agree that striped bass will hit a lure with more gusto, but once hooked, a pollack will outrun a bass. The streamlined body and forked tail of a pollack will give you a hint of this, but the proof of the pudding is in the catching.

Three years ago, I introduced my son, George, to pollack fishing for the first time, and was he ever surprised at their display of power and stamina. We started out early in the morning, before the first show of light in the East. As we approached Galilee it was almost daylight, but without the sun over the horizon. After parking my vehicle as close to the Galilee Wall as possible, George and I walked out to the end where there were already four fishermen stationed at different points on the jetty. We found a large rock not too far from the end of the wall where we could stand close together, yet not get in each other's way.

While exchanging greetings with the four early birds we learned that two pollack had been caught about ten minutes before our arrival, but alas no action since then despite the fishermen's continued efforts. Putting on our rigs, George and I joined our fellow anglers in concert. After about four casts, George turned to me and said, "I'm hung up." No sooner had he made this statement when his rod began to throb and line began to peel off the reel. Everyone who had a lure in the water seemed to follow suit except me. It really hurt when my son turned to me while unhooking his second fish of the morning (and me

Continued on Page 18

CRACK REEL

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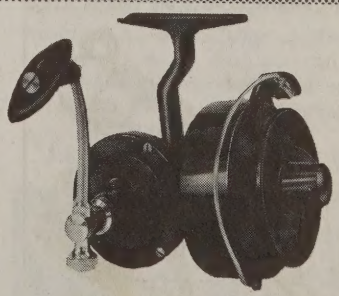

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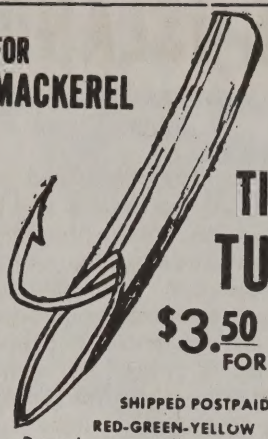

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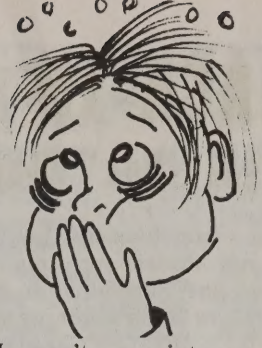

BARFF!

A. Nonimus

I won't go into any lengthy explanation as to why the byline A. Nonimus. I just prefer to keep embarrassing tales at a distance, so to speak. About a dozen years ago in mid-December, I made my first offshore deep sea fishing trip for cod. The boat and port need not be mentioned either. (The names have been changed . . . er . . . omitted to protect the innocent.) It was a cold dreary day, heavy gray cloud cover scudding overhead. From the northwest the wind was up a bit and the seas were restless. The cod boat chugged and churned, heading for the area they'd loaded up with on cod the previous day. I had never been effected by sea-sickness before, since all previous fishing had been from the surf, jetties and boat fishing in the bays and backwaters, and taking sea-sick pills (Dramimine) had never entered my mind. I'd heard that "mal'd'mer" (sea-sickness) was all in the mind, so I just instructed my mind to "cool it's heels." At the lines-down signal I stationed myself well clear of the diesel fumes and didn't look at the water. I was able to fish for no longer than ten minutes, when I had to reel in and call it a day; I then chummed as no man has ever chummed. I'd have done my thing in the head, but it was a busy barffing station at the moment. I tried to find a comfortable spot to lie down and die and, eventually, I staggered to a point amidships and curled up in the fetal position on the cabin deck. I remained in that spot the rest of the trip, in a semi-coma. Sea-sickness is a physical experience you really have to live through to know what it's like. It's **HELL**, baby.

Very clearly in the deep recesses of my think machine is another memorable venture offshore, inadvertantly blundered upon by my wife and I one beautiful, hot, summer day over a decade ago. We'd missed our fluke boat due to a late start that morning, and jumped another open boat which I wasn't familiar with, which also had the fluke sign on top. Imagine my surprise when I noticed we were passing the breakwater and heading into the ocean, itself. At the same time, my wife and I realized the boo-boo we'd made. "Oh -------," I moaned. She patted my hand and put her head on my shoulder. The boat rocked with the swells as it dirfted. Neither of us wet a line. She just collapsed on the top of the cabin. I wasn't so fortunate; I was effected in the stomach and lower intestinal tract at the same time. Luckily, the head was unoccupied. Try and picture the sorry plight I was in, locked in the cramped bow head of the tossing boat with the seas sloshing noisily at the wood hull inches from my ears, and my stomach and guts fighting for priority. (I'm getting woozy again as I write about it.) To add to the hellishness of the moment, others sick on the boat kept pounding on the frail door to the head which was barely closed by a small hook and eye. Twice, I heard barff hit the flimsy door and the deck on the other side. "I'm in here!" I had to keep yelling through the door. Again, I was in a semi-coma for the remainder of the day.

The day came, however, that I started taking Dramimine, or sea-sick pills (motion sickness pills). One a half hour before the boat sails, another when she pulls away from the dock, and a third pill 3-4 hours later if it's really rough. I can assure you that these sea-sick pills really work. I've taken many offshore trips in rough seas since then and never get sick, as long as I take the pills. So don't let this confession of mine keep you away from the boats headed offshore. Don't deprive yourself of a day of fun, relaxation, excitement and great fishing due to any fears of seasickness, just take the pills according to instructions on the package or the way I described and you won't be bothered a bit.

And let me assure those of you who are reading this, who HAVE been seasick at one time or another in the past, that there is a special place in Heaven reserved for us - we who have suffered, and survived! We have served our time in Hell. Good fishing.

CATSKILL TROUT FISHING PART 1

by Leonard S. Baum

Hundreds of Long Island sportsmen are avid trout fishermen, but unfortunately, quality trout fishing is not as available to them as is fishing for the blues, weaks and stripers that frequent our shores during trout season. Except for a few searun browns, Long Island hosts hatchery fodder - not the sleek, wily, flashy fighters that have inspired volumes of literature from the Catskills to the Rockies, and all over the Continent.

Yet, our very own Catskills, home of the Beaverkill, Esopus, Neversink, East and West Branches of the Delaware, and their tributaries, all offer fishing today which ranks with the best in the East. But with a few notable exceptions, such as "Charmed Circle of the Catskills" by Cecil Heacox, Outdoor Life, March and April, 1969, there is scant literature to guide Long Islanders on where, when and how to fish these streams.

Hence this article is designed, in the L.I.F. tradition, to inform; with an eye for detail and clues to guide you to a more successful day afield.

There are two streams with which I'm intimately familiar, the Esopus and the Beaverkill. Both can be reached in less than three hours from most of Long Island, and both offer excellent wild trout fishing. The Esopus offers mostly rainbows, with plenty of browns and a very few brookies. The Beaverkill offers almost all browns, with a few brookies and a very occasional rainbow.

Let's start with the Esopus Creek and its major tributaries, the Woodland Valley Stream and Stony Clove (or Chichester) Creek. Although thousands of hatchery browns are planted each year, and a few brookies are planted in some tributary stretches, rainbows of 6-10" make up most of the catch. Inexplicably, on some days browns of 7-11" dominate. The Esopus is not a "big fish" stream, at least for the fly-fisherman, but 16-20" rainbows and browns of 12-20", and larger, are available. In fact, for certain fishermen, 16"+ rainbows and browns are common and ocasionally plentiful! But this usually requires bait or spinners. My largest "fly" brown measured 20" (on a #14 Iron nymph) and my largest rainbow went 19" (on a #12 Black Ant). The large rainbows usually launch their well-publicized spawning run in March and April and succumb to bait (salmon eggs, worms and minnows) or spinners. Fly fishing is not reliably productive until the very end of April, and by then most (but certainly not all) of the larger rainbows have returned to the Ashokan Reservoir, from where they came. Now, there are other reasons why the larger fish don't come to flies and this will be explained later, but first, let's turn to the geography of the Esopus area. Get out a New York State map. Follow the New York Thruway to Exit 19, and from there follow Route 28 northwest to Phoenicia, New York, the heart of the Esopus fishery. Look to the west of Phoenicia; there the Esopus rises on the slopes of Slide Mountain and runs north through the towns of Oliverea and Big Indian. At Big Indian, this gentle stream intersects Route 28 and then runs parallel to that route virtually its entire length downstream. From Big Indian the Esopus runs easterly to Shandaken and Allaben, and then southeasterly to Phoenicia, Mount Tremper, Cold Brook and Boiceville. The character of the creek changes dramatically at Allaben, which is several miles northwest of Phoenicia. At Allaben, the gentle, freestone stream is joined by water, usually off-color to muddy, gushing out of the "portal." The portal is the end of the 18-mile long Shandaken Tunnel, which runs underground, and carries cool water from the Schoharie Reservoir to the north. Depending on the water requirements of New York City, the "portal" may be open, partially open or closed, and this will govern the fishability of the water below the portal. Above the portal, the Esopus often is referred to as the "Upper Esopus" and below the portal, the Esopus usually is called the "main stream." From Boiceville, the location of the "Five Arch Bridge," the Esopus runs a few miles south until, running past the famous "Chimney Hole," it finally flows into the Ashokan Reservoir.

The portal is especially important to the Esopus fishery. Although the portal often brings muddy water into the main stream, it also brings a good volume of cold water, thereby maintaining a large population of trout (and fishing) throughout the hot summer months. Incidentally, bait fishermen often take large fish at the portal.

We now turn to the main tributaries of the Esopus. The first is the Woodland Valley Stream which meets the Esopus about one mile north of Phoenicia. (Make a left turn off of Route 28, heading north, about one mile north of Phoenicia.) This stream has a fly-fishing-only stretch which produces some very fine fish. It also produces many large spawning rainbows in the spring, and the large pool formed by the confluence of the Woodland Valley and the Esopus is known to harbor many good fish even though it is heavily fished. My favorite tributary stream is the Stony Clove, or Chichester, which joins the Esopus in Phoenicia itself. Turn right onto Route 214 in Phoenicia. Route 214 parallels the Chichester for most of its fishable length upstream. This stream offers excellent fishing for the large, spawning rainbows in April, all the way from the mouth of the stream to the iron bridge in the hamlet of Chichester. Large browns sometimes frequent this stretch, especially in the early spring, and in late summer when the browns start their fall spawning run.

Both the Woodland Valley and Chichester are comparatively small streams which feature steep pockets and riffles and only a few sizeable pools. Both streams harbor innumerable wild trout which seldom exceed 10" in length, except during the spawning runs. In most stretches they offer beautiful, tranquil surroundings. Although these streams have many posted sections, you almost always will be given permission to fish, but continual trespassing and litter may change this.

How do you get to the Esopus and where do you fish? By car - take the New York Thruway to Exit 19 to Route 28, and in about 25 minutes you'll be in Phoenicia. There are also regularly scheduled buses leaving the New York Port of Authority to Phoenicia. There are some excellent motels, housekeeping cottages and trailer camps in and around Phoenicia, Mount Tremper and all along Route 28. If you are interested, I can furnish details.

Next week: "Where and When."

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STRIPERS & WORMS
Continued from Page 7

accounted for some big stripers in western Long Island Sound. When trolling such spinners and lures with worms, move them slowly along shore and down deep for best results. They work in the daytime, but you'll do better at night when there are fewer bait-stealers around. Also, at night things are quieter with less boat traffic and fewer anglers, and the bass work closer to shore to feed.

About the deadliest way you can use seaworms for stripers is to drift in a boat with the wind or tide, and let out the bait on an unweighted line. Here you can use a whole, large worm, or two or three smaller ones, on the hook and drift slowly, letting out enough line so that the worms travel close to the bottom. High tides are best in most places because you can drift close to shore. Early morning, evening and night time is best for stripers, and also to avoid the bait-stealers.

When there is no wind or tide you can troll the worm slowly by rowing the boat. And there are times when the wind or tide is strong and you can add a clincher sinker on the leader above the hook to get down deeper. But even when the tide is running strong, you can often catch stripers by drifting with a worm in the "eddies" and "dead" spots created behind bridge supports and let your worm down in the quieter waters found here.

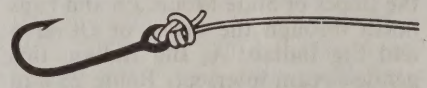
Another killing way to use the worms is by drifting with a sinker or weight along the bottom, or close to it, with the wind or tide. This is especially effective in tidal rivers, inlets, channels and around bridges, but it can also be done in the ocean off the beaches. Two rigs are popular for such drifting. You can attach a light "drail," or weight of about 2 ounces to the end of your line, then add a 3-foot leader and a 2/0 hook. Next, put a whole sandworm on the hook and then lower the rig to the bottom. When you feel the weight hit bottom, reel in about 4 or 5 turns of the reel handle so that it just clears the bottom. As you drift, however, you should let the sinker drop back at regular intervals to make sure the worm is riding close to the bottom.

The other rig used for worm drifting is made by tying a three-way swivel on the end of your line, then attaching a light, 1 to 3 ounce sinker on an 8 to 10 inch dropper to another eye. This sinker will vary in weight depending on the strength of the tide, the wind and the depth of the water, but the lighter the better. You should then attach a 3 or 4 foot leader with a 1/0 or 2/0 hook, to which you add the whole sandworm.

You can also use a "high-leader" rig which has a 3 or 4 foot leader and hook tied about the same distance above the sinker. This is used, from an anchored boat, especially around bridges, and the rig and worm is let out with the tide along the bottom.

But no matter how presented, stripers like worms and you can't go wrong by using these seaworms as often as possible.

KNOTS TO YOU
Continued from Page 11



Step Four: Pull on the running line. This will draw up the loop that the hook was passed through. Be sure the line is secured over the top of the eye. Cut off excess line and leave about one-quarter of an inch. There will be no slippage under any pull by a fish.

With even a little practice, knot tying is fairly easy, and very often a good knot is faster to tie than a poor one. With the best fishing season fast approaching, now is the time to sit down with a copy of **PRACTICAL FISHING KNOTS** and practice, practice, practice so you will be ready for those big fish waiting to take your plug.

MACKEREL ARE KINDER
Continued from Page 13

and use three flies. Multiple hookups are common and can add some extra excitement.

If the fish are right on the surface you have to really work for them, but it's thrilling. The fly, if stripped in fast enough, will travel right on the surface, and the fish will chase it with their backs sticking right out of the water. As soon as the fly lands and you start to retrieve it, you will see a group of mackerel detach themselves from the school and head for your fly. They will chase it and swim alongside it. As long as you keep it moving fast enough, one of them will probably make a grab for it. The greatest challenge here is getting the fish to commit himself to striking the lure. You have to make that fly literally skim across the surface to keep up the mackerel's interest when they are feeding at the surface. During the course of a day I have had hundreds of fish follow my flies; most of them turn away from them after losing interest.

The fantastic speed of these fish makes it essential that nothing interfere with the clearing of the fly line through the guides as the fish runs.

You don't have to own a boat to pursue these fish, since they are everywhere in the Sound during the month of May. There are dozens of places where skiffs and rowboats, with or without motors, can be rented. It's usually a very short ride to where the action is.

If you are anxious to try light-tackle salt water fishing, come to Long Island Sound and find out why Mackerel are Kinder than Trout.

POLLACK IN RHODE ISLAND
Continued from Page 15

with none), exclaiming, "I thought you knew how to catch pollack! I'll come over in a minute and show you how to do it."

Thankfully, for my ego's sake, I almost immediately had a fish on, and before too long started to catch up to my son. We were both using a weighted copper tube with a monofilament leader and a double bucktail jig, one white and one yellow, just in case the fish preferred one color over the other. On this particular day, the pollack liked both colors equally well. As the sun rose higher above the horizon, the action became more intermittent and finally stopped completely. Although pollack can be caught in the middle of the day, the most productive time is in the early morning or just before sunset. Everybody walked off the wall carrying plenty of fish and wearing big smiles. George and I had a five gallon plastic bucket full of pollack, and a stringer with at least two fish on each clip. By the time we walked back to our vehicle we were both out of breath. The thought of having to clean all those three to five pound fish made me shudder, but knowing that they would make fine tablefare made it an easier pill to swallow.

At one time, pollack were considered to be almost a trash fish and not many fishermen, both sport and commercial, considered them to be desirable to catch, but several historical occurrences changed this. Some species of popular fish became less plentiful than formerly, and commercial fishermen turned to netting pollack which were more readily available. This is turn made

people aware that pollack is a fish that provides tasty fare. At the same time, the sport fishermen learned how to catch these fish with more consistency than before, and that pollack did provide excellent sport.

More recently, it was internationally agreed upon to not fish for haddock during their spring spawning period; this resulted in the fishing fleets turning to pollack for a substitute. There is a fear amongst many pollack anglers that though we may be conserving haddock, we may one day see a total depletion of pollack. Hopefully, this fear will not materialize into reality, but this provides even more reason for the readers of this magazine to stand behind its editorial policies in reagrd to writing to your legislators about extending the present twelve mile limit to two hundred miles.

South Shore Reports

DICK MERMON
MONTAUK

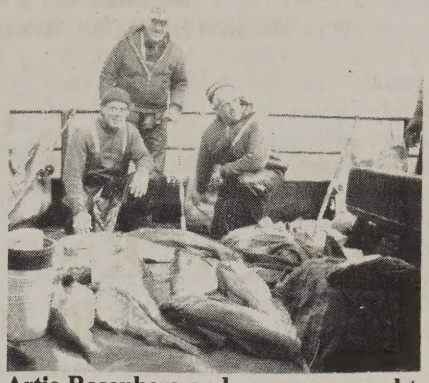
Capt. Bud Dorman sailed his "Viking Skipper" over to the Southwest Ledge of Block Island on Saturday in all the rain and still raised heck with the cod that were there. A husband and wife team really showed everyone how it it done. Bill Boyce was high hook for the day with 27 cod and his wife, Rita, was close behind. On Sunday, Capt. Bud said the wind blew very hard from the northwest. Still, there were hardy fishermen waiting to fish the spring run of cod. One of the hardiest, who stood with the fishing all day, was Bill Zierin of Freeport. He had 35 cod. Everyone had their fill for the day and the Viking Skipper was back at the dock by 3 P.M.

With all the reports of good codfishing coming in over the phone, I personally had to find out if the spring cod run was really on. Last Tuesday, Joe Kuti of Old Bridge, N.J. (who is a representative of Shakespeare), Ron Tartaglia, a friend Bob, and myself decided to fish on the "Hel-Cat." There were but six of us as passengers. Capt. Brad and brother, mate Bob Glas, sailed south of Block Island. From the time we set the anchor to the time the three whistles blew we had cod coming over the side. It was a fantastic trip. The total catch for the boat was well over 1000 pounds of cod. The only time we got a break was at slack tide. Each grabbed a sandwich and a drink during that slack half hour, and then the action started again. The cod ranged from 3 to 28 lbs., and guess who got the biggest? Me!

Capt. George and Capt. Brad Glas did well with the cod on Saturday and Sunday also despite the wind. All the passengers were well satisfied. The red cod were small but the common cod ran up to 30 lbs.

The "Viking Fleet" also connected with the codfish. Capt. Paul Forsberg said the bottom must be paved with them. The sandeels are in very thick in the area and the cod are feeding on them. As soon as a bait is lowered a bite is felt. If you don't feel anything after a few minutes, it usually means your bait is gone. This is one of the best spring cod runs in a long time.

A 55 lb. cod was taken aboard the "Peconic Queen" on Sunday by John Deurschak of Point Pleasant, N.J. at Cox's Ledge. Capt. Les Behan said the Ledge is loaded with big fish. Last week, on the Andrea Doria run, the Peconic Queen had to weave in and out of foreign trawlers to find a spot to set anchor. "It was like the bay channels on a summer Sunday." With all the activity going on the wreck was difficult to find. This was also possibly due to a pod of whales that were in the area. They were some 40 to 50 feet in length, and Capt. Behan feels that the echo signals were bouncing off the whales. Once situated, the cod were there waiting.



Artie Rosenberg and company caught big cod on the Peconic Queen II "Monday, Cox's Ledge Special." Capt. Behan said, "there were loads of big cod."

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of Promised Land Fishing Station reported that the wind and rain sort of knocked things out a wee bit. On Saturday the anglers that did brave the wind got into some nice

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flounders up to 3 lbs. They fished near the Fish Factory and east of the Devon area. Mussels are the best bait. Blackfish are mixed in with the flatties.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows, Jr. said that Tuesday and Wednesday were not only beautiful days as far as weather goes, but the flounders and blackfish also cooperated. Rich Kapola of Queens had 26 nice flounders up to 2 lbs. and 4 blackfish to 8 lbs. Capt. Bellows took the "Capt. Clark I" out on Sunday and saw his first weakfish of the season. This fish was lost when the angler tried to lift the fish over the side. The deep hole wrecks will produce even better as the season progresses. It will go from quantity blacks to quality blacks as the fish finish spawning.

"Weaks are in the Canal at slack water," reported Hank Altenkirch. Anglers fishing with Touts (rubber shrimp tails) are doing a job on these fish. Flounders are still the best bet for a good dinner.

SAG HARBOR

Capt. Bellows, Sr., fishing Cedar Point to Three Mile Harbor, is connecting with snowshoe flounders up to 3 lbs. Coecles Harbor is producing the quantity fish of 1 to 2 lbs. As always, weather is the big factor in the fishing picture.

The Arverne Fishing Club had a nice catch of flounders, even in the wind and rain. Dan McLane of Bayview Tackle & Bait also reported that the "Rubber Worm" story has stirred the pot. He weighed in three nice stripers up to 7 lbs., caught on rubber worms by Dick O'Brien. He also said that they should be very good for the weakfish.

Noyac Marina reported that Russ Brown of Massapequa and friend did a fine job on the flounders, even with saturated sinkers. They kept 40 nice flatties and released the ones of smaller size.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station reported flounder fishing continues to pick up, even without the help of the weatherman. Saturday was a fair day but Sunday showed a big improvement.

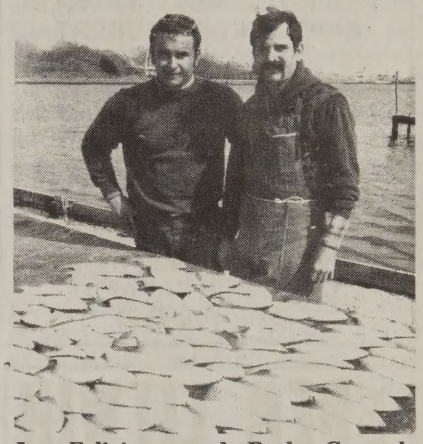
Ernie Berhle of Bradley's Fishing Station said the flounders are on the move and quality sized fish are not available for the hardy fishermen that brave the elements. Worms and mussels still dominate over clams as bait.

MORICHES

B & B Tackle reported that not only are Touts doing the job for the weakfishermen in the Canal, but Salty Dogs and small bucktails (white in color) are also good. There were a few short bass taken near the Smith Point Bridge, and flounders are sort of being pushed out of the picture by the weaks and bass.

Nancy of Skidmore's Fishing Station said that Tuesday and Wednesday were good days. Thursday and Friday were poor. Bill Maier came all the way from Washington, D.C. to get his share of flounders on Saturday, and nothing was about to stop him. Bill, John and Pat Kelly of Ridgewood, Queens, filled up two bushels with flatties fishing near Buoy #42.

Ben of Tadsen's Fishing Station reported that on Sunday, in all the wind, several nice catches of flounders were made. Eels are also hitting. No weakfish have been brought in yet, but we expect them any day now.



Joe Feliciano and Rudy Comacho caught 87 flounders at Harts Cove on worms with mussel chum. They fished out of the Silly Lily Fishing Station.

Norman Abbarepaolo with Ernest and Albert Miethe caught 108 flounder at Seatick Cove. Photo by Skidmore's Fishing Station.

MASTIC BEACH

The flounders are pretty much all over the bay area, and they are mixed in size. The average is still about 1 lb., reported Keenan's Fishing Station. "The bottom was stirred up pretty much during the blow, however, everything is setting and getting back to normal now."

SAYVILLE

"Not only one or two days, but four

CAPTREE

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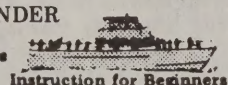
FLOUNDER — DAILY 8 A.M. T.V.

Tackle Available



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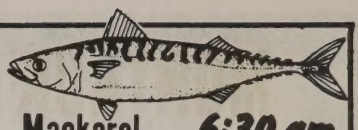

Mackerel 6:30 am

JACK VI FLOUNDERS 7:30AM

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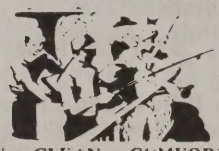
CAPTREE



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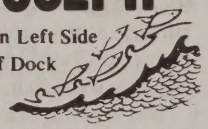

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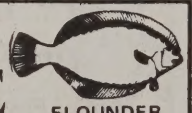
CAPTAIN WAYNE



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Captree Queen

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days were a wipe-out," said Dennis Masterson of South Bay Fishing Station. Big weaks are around but trying to find them is the trick. The best locations are some of the deep holes of Heckscher State Park. Dennis also said that Saturday, May 5, will be the first of the "Fishing Sale Days" at South Bay. Tackle will be on sale at real low prices. After you purchase your rig, you can break it in on the flounders or weaks that are available.

Mike Speros and Joe Berecz of the Bronx show their catch of flounder which they caught in Forge River. The flatties ranged in size from ½ to 2 lbs. Photo by Tadsen's Fishing Station.

CAPTREE

Mackerel, mackerel and more mackerel! Everybody was into mackerel at the beginning of the week. Saturday wasn't completely washed out, but on Sunday the seas were too heavy for any decent fishing. The boats fishing for flounders are still doing a nice job on fish up to 2 lbs. Worms are still best for the flatties. An occasional weakfish is coming in with the flounders.

"Capt. Joseph IV" will be running for mackerel every day from now on at 7 A.M. On Saturday and Sunday there will be two trips per day. The boat will leave at 7 A.M. and then again at 4 P.M. for another crack at the mackerel until further notice. The Joseph I and II will still stay with the flounders for a while.

The piers are still showing signs of improvement in the fishing. The flounders are getting bigger. A few more weakfish were taken on Tuesday and Wednesday, but Friday and Saturday was a "weatherman's wash-out." Sunday saw a few die-hard fishermen out and a few small flounders were taken.

BABYLON

Babylon Sports Center said the pickerel were hitting at Belmont Lake and Southards Lane Pond in Babylon. Stocked browns up to 12 inches are being taken on the Mepps Spinner #0 and #1 from the second falls (outlet) of Southards Lane. Carp are still taking the doughballs in Argyle Lake inlet mouths. Several nice sized ones have broken off. Take it easy fellows, and land that big one for the contest!

Augie's Bait & Tackle reported that Al Burns, Sr. and Jr., of Babylon, fished from their skiff "Spanky" east of the Captree Bridge and had a nice catch of flounder. A big weakfish was lost because there was no landing net aboard. Augie stated that all boats fishing for weaks should carry a landing net in order to avoid a similar mishap.

LINDENHURST

"There are plenty of flounders, blacks, weakfish and bass around," said John of Charlie's Bait and Tackle, "all we need is the weather." John also advised us that the old Salty Sam's Bait & Tackle is now called Charlie's West, and is being managed by John,Jr. It is open seven days a week from 6 A.M. to 4 P.M., and like his original place, carries everything for the sportsman and woman.

AMITYVILLE

Dick Rath and son, Larry, of Massapequa, went out on Sunday for weakfish. They stopped at Combs Bait

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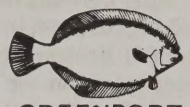
POOKA III



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Claudio's Dock, GREENPORT
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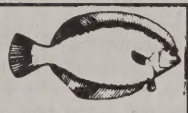
Brand X



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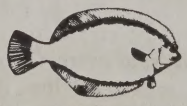

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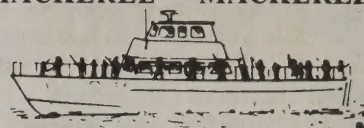
MACKEREL — MACKEREL



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& Tackle for two quarts of shrimp and then proceeded to chum one of the holes in State Channel near Gilgo. They took three weakfish and had several other hits. Dick returned to Combs to weigh in his fish. It went 8¼ lbs. His son had a weak which went a shade over 3 lbs. An angler stopped in to purchase some green crabs for the blackfish that are being caught near the Wantagh bridges. He also came back and showed George a nice mess of blacks from 3 to 5 lbs. For the fresh water fans, trout are still taking small, live killies at the Massapequa

Reservoir. One angler had his limit there on Saturday and was back for more killies on Sunday. Coons Lake is also producing some trout, perch and carp.

Mike of Sportackular reports he received some third-hand information about the bass near the Robert Moses Bridge. It seems one angler drifting worms had bass up to 18 lbs. in this area. Gill netters reported that big weakfish, up to 10 lbs., were in the nets, however, the hook and line fishermen could not get out due to lumpy seas.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser, Sr. reported that the bass are still small around the inlets; most of them are short shorts. Give or take a few more days and the keepers will be real keepers. The flounders are still plentiful around the Squaw Island area.

The drain near Four Corners, Squaw Island and Florence Beach in Massapequa are but a few of the flounder producing areas, reported Pop's Fishing Station. There are still a lot of small fish around, but the bigger ones are there also. "If you have to look twice at the fish, why keep it?"

"Weather bas, fishing good," reported Naomi's Fishing Station. Hopefully the weatherman will co-operate this week and provide a good combination.

Jim, Dave and Tom Cassaro and Vinnie Loria pose with 150 flounder up to 1½ lbs., caught off Squaw Island on bloodworms and dyed clams, while fishing aboard the "Janda-T."

WANTAGH

There was some bass action at the 2nd Wantagh Bridge at the beginning of the week. One angler drifted the area with bloodworms and had two nice stripers in the 7 to 10 lb. class. Flounders are really hitting at the Jones Beach piers. Mr. Hicks, of New Hyde Park, brought a nice catch in to show Frank Hecker of Causeway Bait & Tackle. Frank also said that herring are still around the bridges and that the blackfish seem to be there also, and in quantity.

NEW YORK BIGHT

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie Kessinger of the party boat "Star Stream" reported making one long drift on Sunday. Richie started drifting off Long Beach and finished up the day in front of his inlet, loaded with mackerel.

Capt. Al Lindroth of the "Capt. Al" said mackerel fishing couldn't be any better. His fares averaged 100 mackerel apiece and many did better than that. Al said many fishermen had their fill of mackerel long before the day was over.

Capt. John of the charter boat "Empire" reported fair flounder fishing on Saturday for his group. The highlight of the day was a 14½ inch fluke caught by Tim McDonald.

POINT LOOKOUT

Dave Lemke of Ed's Fishing Station reports that on Sunday one group of fishermen had success with the blackfish under the Meadowbrook Bridge. Dave said they fished with fiddler crabs and caught over 40 blacks up to 5 lbs. Arthur Itein and his son, along with Ricky Rydell and Frank Pramberger, of Woodside, fishing out of Ed's, caught 132 flounders (1 ans 2 lb. size) on the flats off Reynolds Channel on worms. Dave said flounder fishing couldn't be better.

Capt. Art White of the "Angler II" said it was murder on macks. Capt. White fished the area of the Whistle Buoy off Jones Inlet and said the mackerel couldn't come over the rails any faster.

Capt. Andy Pollio of the charter boat "Junior II" drifted in the area of

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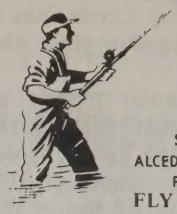

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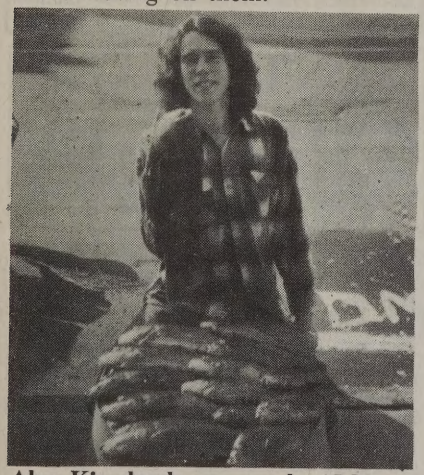
Point Lookout Beach and Lido. Fishing with squid he managed 15 weakfish of about 3 or 4 lbs., however, one fish went 8 lbs. A few short bass were also caught and released.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reported only a handful of skiffs were out on the weekend. All returned with mixed catches of flounder. Bernard Benjamin and Tom Tai, fishing off Duck Point on Sunday, managed a few dozen flounder weighing from 1 to 1½ lbs. Leon also knew of a jetty jockey who caught 26 blacks from the Silver Point Jetty using clams for bait. Hening's hopes to have fiddler crabs for the weekend. Leon had word of a few fluke being caught by local draggers. Not enough to fish for, but it's a showing.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mike's Tackle Shop reported all party boats are loading up with mackerel. The party boats and rental skiffs fishing for flounder are returning with good catches. Mike knew of a few bass bugs catching bass with Rebel plugs in the area of the jetty, however, most of them are shorts. The big story in the bay is mackerel, and almost everyone is concentrating on them.



Alan Kirschenbaum caught 15 blackfish up to 7 lbs. fishing aboard the "Helen H II" out of Sheepshead Bay.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop reported the weather of the past week had an adverse effect on the bass fishing, however, this is not to say that no bass were taken. John Scaglione landed a 5 lb. bass on Saturday afternoon. Lenny also reported another fisherman who caught seven stripers on Saturday. Only two of the seven were keepers. Worms have been most productive, however, yellow bucktails have been accounting for a few in the area off Great Kills Park. Lenny is confident that the bass fishing will improve as the dirty water clears up. Kids fishing above the Verrazano Bridge on the Staten Island side are catching tommy cod.

SANDY HOOK

Capt. Bunting of the "Sea Horse" drifted in the area off Shrewsbury Rocks this weekend. His fares caught all the mackerel they wanted. A few small cod were also jigged at Rattlesnake Grounds. Capt. Bunting advises us that boats loaded up on mackerel in the area of Ambrose Tower and also the B.A. Buoy.

NEW JERSEY

PETE BARRETT

SANDY HOOK

"The mackerel are in," reports Julian's Tackle, and the best areas are the Shrewsbury Rocks where small cod and blackfish ar also available, and about 4 miles to the S.E. of Scotland. Bass are moving along the surf at the Sandy Hook Park, but most catches are small, taken on worms. Flounder action is still good with most catches now a lot fatter than earlier season fish. Rumson is a good spot, according to Julian's.

SEABRIGHT

Striper fishing is improving along the beaches from the State Park to Seabright and Giglio's Tackle weighed in fish up to 10½ lbs., caught by Tom Phillips. Bill Bates had bass to 8½ lbs., and Nick Costa had stripers to 5 lbs. Flounder are hitting well, and ling and whiting are taking sandworms and squid at night along the surf.

MONMOUTH BEACH

There are bass in the Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers, reports Monmouth Tackle, and waders like Kevin Lynch are getting them on 4½" Red Fins. Flounder are nice and plump and are hitting best at the bridges along the rivers.

ISLAND BEACH

It was tough fishing over the weekend with too much N.E. and N.W. winds, but some stripers were taken on cut mackerel. Joe Kane had a nice 9 lb. 9 oz. bass, reported Judy & Bill's Tackle, and other small bass were caught. Flounder are hitting well in the bay from the Mathis Bay Bridge to Barnegat Inlet.

LONG BEACH ISLAND

The Fisherman's Headquarters in Ship Bottom reported good mackerel fishing offshore, a few bass in the surf, some kings along the beaches, and winter flounder along the bulkheads and in the bay. Holgate, Barnegat Light and Brant Beach are likely striper haunts at this time of year, with cut mackerel taking most catches.

The Snuggery Dock in Beach Haven reported only fair flounder fishing over the weekend due to lots of wind. Boaters had only 20-30 fish per man instead of the usual 100 or better. Best catch was a 9½ HP Evinrude motor! Stripers are hitting bucktails and worms at Grassy Channel and Little Egg Inlet, and smaller bass are reported in the surf.

GREAT BAY

An 11½ lb. striper taken by Tony Ducin, a 2½ lb. fluke (!), and weaks up to 5 lbs. were reported by the Great Bay Marina. Weakfish action is still slow but both the bass and weaks are expected to bust wide open by next week. Mackerel and bucktails are the winning combo for bass, while the weaks are hitting worms and bucktails. Flounder are holding well and good catches were reported. The Little Beach area was good for bass on Monday morning, according to Speck McGilney who had a 9 pounder.

ATLANTIC CITY

Striper fishing was in a slump with the high winds, and few catches were reported to the Jack Blades Tackle Shop. Those that were caught were small and hit cut mackerel. Some early kings and weakfish showed in the surf, indicating the good fishing to come. Mackerel are being taken by the sackful, with typical catches reaching 60-100 per man. Flounder in the back bays are hitting well on worms and clam chum.

WILDWOOD

Dad's Place had few boats out over the last few days - again it's the wind - but better weather must be around the corner. Togs are hitting at the Grassy Sound toll bridge and weakfish reports are coming from the Delaware Bay side of Cape May.

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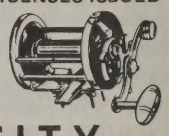

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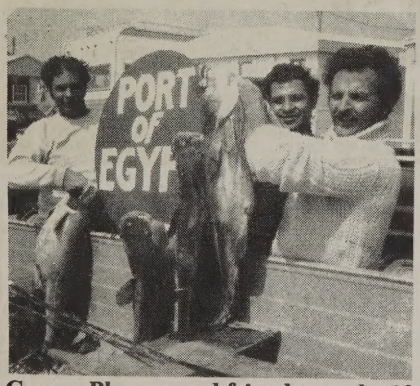
North Shore Reports

GREENPORT

Dave Green of the "Pooka III" called to report fantastic flounder fishing on the east side of Shelter Island. On Saturday Dave had a charter of 13 men and they bagged over 300 fish up to 3 lbs. The average fish was well over a pound. The results of Sunday's blow-up are reflected by the 200 fish taken by Dave's 15 fares. The Pooka III is starting a Flounder Contest this week for the largest flounder taken by a customer. There will be no entry fee; the weekly winner taking home a new Diawa rod and Penn 285.

Art White of A.P. White's Bait Shop reports that big flounders up to 3 lbs. are to be had between Nichols Point and Cedar Point (Gardiners Bay area). Some mackerel have been picked up on rod and reel. At Orient, the nets have been loaded with weaks up to 6 lbs. and stripers up to 20 lbs. Nothing on rod and reel though, as far as the weaks and stripers go, says Art. The weather report on Friday scared a lot of people away for Saturday. Too bad! It was a good day and the fellows that checked the skies out themselves loaded up. Weekday fishermen should really consider an "out-East" trip. The Pooka III, Wilhelric and Brand X are ready for you.



George Planzos and friends caught 12 cod up to 24 lbs. They fished off Rocky Point. Photo by the Port of Egypt.

SOUTHOLD

Pete of the Port of Egypt Fishing Station reported a productive week-end, though the weather spooked a lot of customers. Those that thought for themselves got fish. On Saturday, Alex and Tom Poliwoda got a ½ bushel of nice flounder up to 2½ lbs. The largest went 3 lbs.4 ozs. Fred Bayer and party, from Brooklyn, had 73 flounder, taken on the east side of Jessups Neck. 2 to 2½ lbs. were the sizes, with the largest tipping the scales at 2 lbs. 9 ozs. These fish were taken at Buoy #17. On Sunday, due to brisk northwest winds, Pete sent his boats east toward Greenport, where they "socked it to 'em." Mr. Bobobanic and party, from Patterson, N.J., fished from 6 A.M. to 10 A.M. and caught 206 mackerel, all on diamond jigs topped with X-mas trees. Five on at a time was common. Flounder fishing was good, too, on mussels and worms. With some good weather, things should go to great. Weaks taken in the nets are a good indication. They should bust loose soon. Dave Knickerbocker and Ed Lemp got what must have been the first rod and reel caught porgy of the season at mid-week. Bait remains unknown.

Mrs. Morris of Southold Fishing Station reports that on Saturday, Bob and Bill Mollgren of Manhasset took over 100 mackerel. X-mas trees and diamond jigs performed this deed for them. Macks are all over the bay - Jessups, South Ferry, the Windmills, etc. "They're all over," says Mrs. Morris. Some boats are getting bonanzas only 300 ft. from the dock. On Sunday, Bob and Bill came back for flounders and got 52 at Jessups. 1¾ to 2 lb. fish were taken as average. All boats were in by 2 P.M. due to the wind. Fishing was good though in spite of the wind. The flatties took mussels, worms and clams. Mussel chumming is the key, it seems. Porgies and weaks are being taken in the nets (come on spring!). There are lots of blackfish around, but everyone wants the macks, it seems.

This big snowshoe flounder was caught at Buoy 22 off Nassau Point by Mr. Brengard. This is the first snowshoe to be brought into Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

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Nick D'Andrea, Charles DeBartolo and Al Riese, fishing out of the Noyac Marina, caught flounder up to three pounds at South Ferry.

ROCKY POINT

Nick's Bait & Tackle reports that due to the wind and rain, mackerel scattered a bit in this area. Blackfishing is good. 19 keeper bass were bottom fished on sandworms by surfmen (Broadway, Friendship Sts.). Flounder are running well. Flatties up to 3 lbs. are being taken by boat and beach anglers. There are lots of short bass being caught on flounder rigs. Some warm weather should do wonders.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil Loria of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that Steve and Julia Sikorski took 50 flounders up to 2½ lbs. in the Roses Grove area on Friday. Charlie Kurtz, Sal Gaizo and Dick Waters, all from Smithtown, took 16 flounder up to 3 lbs., one porgy of 1¼ lbs. at Nassau Point, all on Sunday. Joe Fazio, of Brooklyn, took the first weakfish in the area off Robins Island. It weighed 3¾ lbs. Sunday, though breezy, was productive. Gasper Terry had the first hook and line macks. These fish went to 2 lbs. and were taken south of Nassau Point.

MOUNT SINAI

Ralph's Fishing Station reports flounders up to 2½ lbs. Worms and mussels have been the hot baits. Mount Misery and Rocky Point have been producing the best. Mackerel moved into the area on Monday and have been improving on a daily basis. Anglers have been averaging 50 to 60 fish per man.

PORT JEFFERSON

Charlie Caraftis of the Caraftis Fishing Station reports flounders up to 3 lbs. being caught at Mt. Misery Shoal. Charlie said a fisherman can catch all the mackerel he wants at Buoy #11. Blackfishing has been good at Oldfield Point and Rocky Point. A few small weakfish have also been caught inside Port Jefferson Harbor as a by-product of flounder fishing.

John Fischer, skipper of the "Betty W," reports the flounder fishing is fabulous. The larger flatties are concentrated right on Mt. Misery Shoals. Over the weekend, despite all the wind, Capt. Fischer said the fishing held up quite well. Saturday's average catch was 15 fish per man. These fish ranged in size from 1½ to 2½ lbs. Martin Romang took the pool with a 2½ pounder. On Sunday, with the Floral Park anglers aboard, the Betty W had 200 fish on board for 15 anglers. High hook was John Ward with 20 fish. The pool winner was Al O'Neil. The baits used were worms, clams and mussels. Mussel chum increased the catch.

Capt. Bill Littlefield, skipper of the charter boat "Jib III," tells it like it is. The storm of last week put the damper on two of his charters over the weekend. On Saturday, the Glendale Fishing Club averaged about 6 flounder per man and also a few blackfish per man. Blacks up to 5½ lbs. were taken on mussels, worms and clams, on flounder rigs. This action took place in Smithtown Bay, off the Mansion. On Sunday, the Bent Rod Fishing Club, with no worms available due to the strike and bad tides in Maine, was put into some flounder and mackerel (on flounder rigs) by Capt. Bill. Bill hates the weatherman, as we all do.

NORTHPORT

Larkfield Sports Center reported that striped bass activity has perked up considerably. Boats working the Crab Meadow area are doing well on bait and artificial lures.

Ted Bowman of Bowman's Tackle said that most of the flounder activity has shifted outside of the harbor and most of these fish are being caught in the Sound. Mackerel can be found from Eaton's Neck east. Ted said blackfishing is improving, and for the blackfish enthusiast, he is now stocking green crabs.

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GLEN COVE

John Cacciola of Glen Cove Sports said that the area of the Glen Cove power house has produced bass this past week. Most of the fish were taken on Rebels and bucktails. John also spoke of a young lad who managed eight bass on Shrimp Tout lures, however, they were all shorts. Crescent Beach has been yielding flounders up to 2 lbs.

CITY ISLAND

Jack Rumpf of Jack's Bait & Tackle reports bass activity has picked up in the area of Turtle Cove. Worms and artificial lures such as the Rebel plug, the Kastmaster and bucktails have been producing the most. Flounder can be caught just about everywhere. Mackerel are being taken from Execution Light east. Jack tells me to be prepared for a shortage on worms. It seems the diggers are on strike, and Jack should know, he's a worm jobber.

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WAPPINGERS FALLS

The peak striper season is fast approaching and bigger bass are being reported. The B & M Bait Shop confirmed a 25 pounder taekn by Joe Pavlik on a bloodworm at the Beacon Ferry Dock. Other bass to 31 lbs. have been reported at Stony Point. Incoming tide through high and the beginning of the outgoing seems to be the best. Yellow bucktails are taking smaller bass. On Wappingers Lake, catfishing is picking up while the bass and panfish situation is still slow.

VERPLANCK

Stripers are hitting in spurts, according to Ace Lent at Ace & Charlie's Tackle. Lures and baits are taking bass at the Oyster Beds, behind the FDR Hospital at Crugers and along Oscawanna Beach. Annsville Creek up at Peekskill is good, and so is Harmon.

CROTON POINT

Croton Bay is hot and cold for stripers, with the weather putting the squash on over the weekend. Stripers were reported from Tellers Point at

the railroad bridge and along the marsh behind the dump. The lower Croton River has herring now, and bass will hit plugs at the old bridge abutments.

OSSINING

Stripers up to 8 lbs. 11 ozs. have been weighed in at Tony's Bait & Tackle. Tony, Jr. had eight fish on Saturday. These fish ranged up to 6 lbs. He also had some throw backs. Crawbuckie Beach has been good to wading fishermen like Kevin and Archie Smith who had over 20 bass last Wednesday on worms and plugs.

FORT LEE

Herring chunks and shad are good for the fine catfishing available at the Interstate Park and up in Piermont for catfish. Night fishermen at Alpine have reported 7 pounders to Ed Graser at the Outdoorsmen Ltd. Perch, tommy cod and eels are hitting well, and stripers are showing up in the 2 to 4 lb. range.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

DICK ALLEY

There's good news and bad news, but by the time you read this, we're hoping the bad news will be a thing of the past, and things will be back to normal. The bad news is a strike of the worm diggers in Maine, which most probably will mean a hike in prices, which will unavoidably be passed on to the consumer. While it's a cause for the tackle shop and fishing station owner to complain, fishing boats have a right to yell even louder, as they've often had to absorb these price hikes into their own profits.

But there is good news for the party boat men as well as every other angler who enjoys Long Island Sound. Mackerel exploded into being last week, and seemingly are spread all over the Sound, with the biggest concentration west of the Norwalk Islands at this writing.

The "Delmar," skippered by Capt. John Minnitti from its Greenwich port every day, hit the macks last Saturday and he's been catching them ever since. If you're not equipped, he has mackerel rigs aboard.

Capt. Ed Brower, sailing the "Dolphin" out of its Bridgeport berth on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, first ran into the Bostons at Wading River while flounder fishing, and came home with a mess of flats caught on clams, along with the mackeel. It's the beginning of a great open boat season, with blacks, flounder, and mackerel all available for all comers.

WESTCHESTER

Dan Catalano at Point Tackle in Rye found the Bostons at Buoy 48 outside Milton Harbor. Picking them up trolling and casting, he found the afternoon tides much better than those in early morning. A few five pound bass are beginning to show as well as first blackfish to compliment the flounder fishing.

At Camerons in New Rochelle, a few anglers have been bringing in mackerel, but flounder are still tops at this writing. A big weekend is expected for blacks, and if they won't hit the unavailable worm, they'll hit a steamer clam. The dogwood is starting to bloom.

GREENWICH

Russ Van Wynen of the Sportsman's Den in Greenwich tells us of the big bass run that finally hit Greenwich Point. It was a long time in coming this year, but fish from 14 to 20 inches are in solid. Bill Ferber recorded the first good fish of the year, a 14½ pounder taken on a bucktail. Mackerel are being caught in the deeper water offshore, and flounder are still running strong.

STAMFORD

By next week, the bass will probably be everywhere, and Pat Chirillo will likely tell us when they reach Stamford waters, but for now, other fishing is very good. Nick Genevese and Roland Cassara picked up a bushel of mackerel just outside the Stamford Cows, while others are coming in with mixed bags of flounder and blacks. Pat's Marina has frozen fiddlers and green crabs on hand for the bait strike.

At Jack's B & T, Sylvia Wood and her two sons racked up a score of 314 flounder in five days of fishing off Pear Tree Point. Another of Jack's customers picked up 11 school stripers at Shippan, while yet another came in with his first catch of 20 mackerel.

NORWALK

Rick Mola at Mola Bros. B & T told of cousin Bruce, who one day, fishing with buddy, Howie Frankel, found the torpedoes about 20 minutes outside Middle Passage, and racked up 45 in 20 minutes jigging. The next day, Bruce fished with Joe Ryzak, and they picked up 19 bass to 7½ lbs. fishing different spots around the Norwalk Islands. Rick has been sticking to the fresh water and was rewarded with a 1 lb. 15 oz. brown trout, while Allan Zabo, fishing the Silvermine River, caught a trout weighed in at 3 lbs. 2 ozs.

At the Tackle Box, Gloria Borges reported finding the mackerel at 24C,

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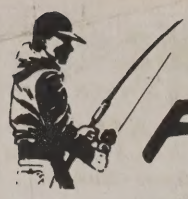

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27' ULRICHSEN H/T Sportfisherman, 185 h.p. F/W/C, low hours, VHF, D/F, full canvas, fish well, new upholstery, extras. In water, ready to go, $2600.00. [212] 597-2725.

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SURGE TUBE LURE KIT. Complete kit makes ten 12 inch 2-hook surge lures. Instructions included. Only $5.95 plus tax. Send check or money order to: P & M Sporting Goods, Box 631, East Setauket, N.Y. 11733.

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23' 68 SPORTCRAFT SPORTSMAN, fiberglass, 165 I.O. Merc Cruiser, sleeps 4, ice box, sink, full covers, $3500.00. Extras, excellent condition. [516] 751-6412.

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25' CHRIS CRAFT CAVALIER, 1961, 185 h.p., sleeps 4, F/W/C, low pressure gas, new hard top, new head, many extras, $3000.00. Must sell [212] 329-9329.

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25' LUHRS SPORTFISHERMAN, outriggers, D/F, 307 V-8, 170 h.p., flybridge. Sell or swap for smaller boat. Call Buz [516]427-7458.

and the flounder still running strong around Sprite Island and Cockenoe.

At Four Winds B & T, the story was the same. Rita Utz gave an example of the high concentration of the mackerel, when she told of Lee Andre, who, finding the mackerel in mid-Sound, followed them towards the Long Island shore with his depth finder turned on, and recorded miles and miles of fish. He spent a little time fishing, and picked up 15.

WESTPORT

At the Westport Tackle Shop, Ed Boland got the word on mackerel from Lloyd Davis early in the week, and each day the reports got bigger and

better. Flounder fishing continues to be claimed excellent, as local anglers find fish right at the mouth of the Saugatuck River. Jake Sowick picked up 44 in a couple of hours off Longshore on the inside, and Bill Sargent fished near Seymours Rock to catch 28 up to a pound and a half in an hour and a half. That's flounder fishing. First Bedford Point bass of the year goes to Ernie Nagy, last year's top surf-spot winner in the Westport Striped Bass Club's annual contest. It was only a five pounder, as Ernie puts it, but it's a good start.

BRIDGEPORT

Steve turned me over to Stowie at the Sportsman's Den, and after bemoaning the State of Connecticut over the small trout for a few minutes, we got down to the salt water. Bass are plentiful in and around Bridgeport Harbor, as well as at the Gun Club in Stratford. Mr. Cooper, a Milford resident, came up with the best blackfish report so far this year, capturing 30 in a day, the biggest scaling more than 8 pounds. Flats are strong at the mouth of the Housy, Milford side. Sportsmen's Den is all geared up for their 1973 contest, with no big entries thus far, so bring your fish in.

Stows trout facts bear mentioning. Late this week he fished the upper Housatonic near Cornwall, and in taking the water temperature, found it at 60 degrees. Sadly the State apparently dumped a bunch of 7 to 8 inch brookies into the river. Trouble is, if the water gets much warmer, they'll die, and what's left will probably serve as food fish for the big browns populating the river.

NEW HAVEN

"Good, good fishing," says Walt Janeczek at Outdoor Sports. Blackfish have broken wide open on the west wall, Milford breakwater. Tony Sipaga came in with a big one here, scaling 8¾ lbs. Stripers are hitting at Savin Rock and Lighthouse Point. Shad are starting at Enfield Dam in the Connecticut River. Mackerel have moved across to Greenport. On the fresh water scene, Mill River is producing many limits, and in Hartford, West Hill Pond rewarded John August with his limit two days in a row, one of which was a big brownie scaling 4¾ lbs.

STRATFORD

Mrs. Fordham had plenty of action to report from the Housatonic Marina. Successful anglers using the rentals there have been: Milton Keller of Seymour, Conn., who recorded 20 flats; Sam Cesaroni of Derby, Conn, with 40 flounder; Jack Kulas of Seymour, with 75; and E. Wilding of Trumbull, who hooked a mixed bag of flats and blacks, the largest blackfish scaling 9 lbs. James Coffey of Hamden took over 70 in a days fishing, and a pair of New York anglers, Ralph Pidgeon of LaGrangeville, N.Y. and Mark LaBanca of Hawthorne, N.Y. took 30 and 90 flounder respectively during the week. Mark hit his big catch off the gun club and the lighthouse.

STONINGTON

From Freddy's Boat Livery, we learn of the first big mackerel showing off the hooter at Watch Hill. A few were boated by George and Joe Chiappone. Block Island is producing some good cod up to 20 lbs. for anglers boating there. Some of the fishermen fishing from Pine Point Bridge for flounder have been surprised recently when lines broke under the weight of a big unfamiliar striper.

WATERFORD

Walt Hillyer of Hillyer's B & T tells of an improving bass picture on the Niantic River every day. First mackerel reports here, and the lobster men report their pots loaded with blacks. Cod are producing fairly well for anglers heading out from this port.

As can be seen from these reports, there is a definite difference in the time cycle from one end of the State to the other. This is not a criticism, but only to point out that the wise fisherman can plan ahead and catch the peak fishing in both areas on all species throughout the season.

EMERGENCY SIGNAL

A compact, all weather emergency flare kit for boaters, that is said to put a flare 300' into the sky, is now available through Charlie Greenblatt, 120 Main Street, Hempstead, N.Y., (516) 538-3650.

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TIDES: SOUTH SHORE
SANDY HOOK STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	8:52	9:09
Fri.	9:41	9:59
Sat.	10:36	10:53
Sun.	11:35	11:51
Mon.	------	12:36
Tues.	12:50	1:34
Wed.	1:49	2:36
Thur.	2:50	3:36

	H.	M.
MANASQUAN	-0	12
STATEN ISLAND	+0	07
ROCKAWAY INLET	0	00
Bergen Beach	+0	29
J.F.K. Airport	+0	26
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	-0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
JONES INLET	-0	19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Cilgo Island	+2	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0	38
West Great South Bay	+2	10
Smithtown State Park	+3	20
East Great South Bay	+3	44
MORICHES INLET	-0	56
Smiths Point	+3	26
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potunk Point	+3	35
SHINNECOCK INLET	-0	50
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	16
Indian Reservation	+3	05

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
WILLETS POINT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	------	12:13
Fri.	12:28	1:04
Sat.	1:18	1:59
Sun.	2:13	2:54
Mon.	3:14	4:08
Tues.	4:25	5:28
Wed.	5:54	6:40
Thur.	7:09	7:45

	H.	M.
Little Neck Bay	-0	10
Execution Light	-0	06
Manhasset Bay	-0	01
Hempstead Harbor	-0	11
City Island	-0	03
Rye Beach	-0	28

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
BRIDGEPORT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	------	1:20
Fri.	12:35	1:09
Sat.	1:26	2:02
Sun.	2:19	2:57
Mon.	3:15	3:56
Tues.	4:16	4:57
Wed.	5:21	6:00
Thur.	6:26	7:01

	H.	M.
Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	-0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jeff Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	-0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	08
Herod Point	-0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	-0	20
Truman Beach	-0	42

TIDES: B.I. SOUND
NEW LONDON STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	10:18	10:33
Fri.	11:09	11:23
Sat.	------	12:05
Sun.	12:18	1:00
Mon.	1:15	2:03
Tues.	2:20	3:11
Wed.	3:31	4:19
Thur.	4:40	5:22

	H.	M.
Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	-0	14
Fort Pond Bay	-0	29
Montauk Inlet	-0	25
Montauk Point	-1	13

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